START

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LONDON

REEL K7B

Reel K-7-B.

Admiralty War Diaries,

1/7/41 to 30/9/41, con'd

from Reel K-6-B.

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Faeroes. Reduction of A/S Trawlers.**
In view of changed conditions and acute shortage A/S Trawlers at Scapa, intend reducing number of A/S Trawlers stationed in Faeroes from 3 to 2. This will entail withdrawal of A/S Patrol West of Faeroes mentioned in N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1600/3/7. 2 Trawlers should be sufficient to ensure interception of ships in Skopen Fiord. (A.C.O.S., 1015A/19).

**Rosyth Escort Force.**
F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1854A/18/8. Request that a replacement for LUDLOW may be sent. This will ensure that the number of ships in the Rosyth Escort Force is not reduced below the minimum required for convoy commitments. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1105/19 to Admty).

**Arming of Icelandic Trawlers.**
Admty 1914/11/4. Icelandic Govt. asked me if offer to arm Icelandic Trawlers still stands. Request I may be informed if this is the case and if other Icelandic ships trading to U.K. would be included. (A.C.I.C., 1113/19).

**Recognition Signals.**
Your 1450B/8. Consider value of any extra security gained by alternative (1) would not justify resultant complication of existing signals. Alternative (2) is little less secure but is preferred. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1427A/19).

**Catapult ships with Gibraltar and O.S. Convoys.**
My 1025B/21 June and my 1650B/1 July. Until further orders fighter Catapult ships are to be operated with Gibraltar Convoys as first priority. If a fighter Catapult ship is available surplus to Gibraltar Convoy requirements, she should be operated with an O.S. Convoy. Admiralty is being asked to provide replacement aircraft at Gibraltar to enable fighter Catapult ships to work right through with O.G./H.G. Convoys. Pending this, fighter Catapult ships should work with normal out and in local escort. In cases where there is no 'meet', you should request C. in C. W.A. by signal to make arrangements for escort for the fighter Catapult ship from or to the convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1715A/19).

**Avoidance of A/C Torpedo Attack.**
Report of ships damaged by aircraft torpedo attack appears to show that majority of hits are aft. It may be that policy of turning away from an attack abaft beam is wrong or that there is some other cause. I suggest that this should be investigated. (C. in C. H.F., 1747A/19 to Admty).

**WISTARIA.**
Request return of WISTARIA to Iceland may be hastened. (A.C.I.C., 1829/19 to WESTERN ISLES).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Defence of U.K.

Aberdeen A/A Defence. — A 946 19/8. Your A218 16/8. Consider importance of Aberdeen warrants permanent HAA defence. Admty and Air Ministry agree your suggestion to move 4 HAA from Clyde to Aberdeen. (Air Ministry 1140/19 to Fighter Command).

### Movements.

RAMILLIES, HESPERUS. — My 0031/19. Sailed 0700Z/19. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 0900A/22. HESPERUS E.T.A. Immingham 0700 A/21. (A.C.I.C. 1006/19).
Request you will adjust speed to arrive at seaward end of Q Z S 211 at 0630/22. Speed in swept channel and Mersey is not to exceed 9 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1009/19 to RAMILLIES).
My 1006/19. Cancel E.T.A. for HESPERUS. (A.C.I.C., 1649/19).

TUNA. — My 1035A/17, para 2 amend to read.
Thence TUNA diving by day through 48° N., 6° W., -and 46° 5' N., 5° 2' W., for patrol in Bay of Biscay South.
(Capt. S.3. 1025A/19).

RUBIS. — Orders for leaving patrol after dark 23/8 and proceeding to Dundee.
(Capt. S.9., 1035A/19 to RUBIS).

SOKOL. — Leave patrol after dark 21/8 routed as follows to R/V in 50° 31' N., 0° 41' W., at 0600A/26. S.B.R. as follows.
(Capt. S.5 1155A/19 to SOKOL and 1211A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).

LONDON. — Proceed 1800 today to Clyde. (ii) Carry out boiler cleaning and be prepared to sail from Clyde on 26/8.
(C. in C. H.F., 1231A/19 to LONDON).

KING GEORGE V. — In view of C. in C. Rosyth's 2201A/18 intend to pass Hoxa Gate at 2100A/20. E.T.A. May Island 0600A/21. (KING GEORGE V., 1938A/19).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

**Operation 'Gauntlet'.**

Scapa arrival AURORA.
(A.C.O.S., 0116/19).
Your 1903A/18 and Admty 2101A/17. Sailed Oiler OLIGARCH escorted by ELM, HAZEL, SEALYHAM, and VAN OOST at 2330Z/18. E.T.A. position AA 2100A /24. (A.C.I.C., 0134/19).
Communications. (C. in C. H.F., 1049A/19 to S.O. Force A).
I have approved S.O. F "A" using AURORA and 4 trawlers for the security of Spitzbergen in the absence of EMPRESS OF CANADA. This is instead of 2 destroyers mentioned in the directions issued to S.O.F."A". (C. in C. H.F., 1235A/19 to Admty).
After receipt of mails and personnel from convoy DERVISH, SHROPSHIRE is to proceed to arrive Akureyri a.m./22 and is to sail thence p.m./22 for Scapa, passing to eastwards of Iceland.
(C. in C. H.F., 1614A/19 to SHROPSHIRE).
S.O. Force A. in NIGERIA with EMPRESS OF CANADA, AURORA, ICARUS, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0600Z/21. (A.C.O.S. 1622A/19 to A.C.I.C).
S.O. Force "A" in NIGERIA sailed from Scapa with AURORA, TARTAR, ICARUS, ECLIPSE.
(A.C.O.S., 1625A/19 to A.C.I.C.)
Request W/T Beacon facilities as arranged in your 1806C/23/7 and 1708C/27/7 may be available from 0800A/28 till 0800A/1/9.
(D.S.D., 1956A/19 to Ad. Miles.)
Request Special W/T arrangements made by Admiral Vian's Signal Officer with Polyarno W/T Station may be put into force from 1200A/27 till 1200A/ 8/9. These arrangements consisted of following.
(D.S.D., 2046A/19 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

**Smith's Knoll.**

3 Motor Launches exercising vicinity Smith's Knoll tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 1537A/19).

**'Grab'**

Intend resume 'Grab' a.m./20.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2153A/19).

**M.T.B. operation.**

Request you detail one M.T.B. fitted with Echo Sounding Gear and Auxiliary Silent Engine for a special operation 23/8.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2332A/19 to C. in C. Nore).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity.

**Escorts. ARGUS. POZARICA. (A.F.D.IV).**

Expect one Blenheim A/A escort from first light, 19th. (C. in C. W.A., 0122A/19 to ARGUS).
Cancel my 0122/19. Expect two Blenheims A/A escort from 0800/19.
(C. in C. W.A. 0432A/19 to ARGUS).
3 sections 6 A/C single engined fighters will escort you from 0940 until 2045/20 and thence daily from 0545 until 2045 throughout passage in 10 group area, weather permitting and whilst in range of fighters. Another Squadron will be in readiness if required. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2032/19 to POZARICA).

**Patrols.**

'Stand' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0438/19).
'Trost' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1048/19).
'Bert' in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1338/19).
P.R.I. Stavanger - Kristiansand - Alborg - Frederikshaven - Oslo in operation.
'Stab' takes off at 1645/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1612/19).
'Stand' in Operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1938/19).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Peterhead bombed.**

Attack by Junkers 88 at 2220/18. Three bombs No damage naval property or personnel. Defences in action before sounded or bombs dropped. Bofors mobile gun manned by military in North Harbour claim hit on aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0900/19).

**HEYKUR (Faeroes Whaler). attacked.**

A/C attacked HEYKUR at 1205A/19 at entrance to Skaale Fiord in low visibility. 3 bombs dropped and machine gun attack. No damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1420/19).

**A/C crashed on 18/8.**

Enemy aircraft crashed Moutain Island Bordo 1140/18 and exploded. Believed Junkers. Paper found indicates from Stavanger. Crew defunct.
(O.C. Troops, Faeroes 2015/19 to War Office),

**Convoy F.N. 7.**

One enemy aircraft bombing Convoy. Position 52° 50' N., 2° 5' E.
(-WOLFHOUND, 2100/19) (LIDDESDALE 2102/19).

**Convoy W.N.69**

Convoy 'Material' is being attacked by aircraft in 58° 18' N., 2° 28' W.
(JAN VAN BRAKEL, 2239/19).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

**East Coast Minelaying. Proposals.**

(i) Anticipate 2 east coast fields will be laid any time after 1/9.
(ii) Can a survey ship be made available for these in lieu of SCOTT. If necessary fields can be laid without a survey ship, but allowing slightly greater tolerance and leaving less water to westward for future field.
(iii) Suggest escort requirements east of Pentland are (a) Fighter escort (b) 2 Hunts or vessel with similar A/A fire (c) if possible one A/A ship -(iv) Intend as far as possible to be east of Pentland during daylight hours.
(R.A.M., 1037A/19 to Admty.)
My 1431/11/4. R.A.(M)'s 1037/19/8. Propose these mines should be sterilised in accordance with Admty. 1140/1/4. (C. in C. H.F. 2150A/19).

**Operation Q.L.1.**

Orders and particulars. (C. in C. Nore, 1446A/19) See Operations Volume.
One Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler at 0653/19 and two more at 0700/19. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1547A/19).

**Thames Estuary.**

3 S.A. Mines detonated this a.m. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1547A/19, 1551A/19).

**GOLD GRAIN, (Motor Barge 101 tons).**

Mined at 1000/19 in 51° 35' 18" N., 1° 3' 18" E. Ship lost. No survivors.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea., 1830/19).

**Acoustic Mines. Speed Restrictions.**

1. (a) Between No. 17 and 21A buoys vessels other than those operating S.A., or those immediately preceded by vessels sweeping S.A., are normally to proceed at speeds not greater than 10 knots. If necessary to make the passage at speeds greater than 10 knots, speeds between 10 and 20 knots should be avoided.
(b) Ships of the R.E.F. may, however, use speeds up to 14 knots to enable them to carry out their normal duties with convoys. When ships not able to adhere to the speed limits laid down, changes of speed should, when possible, be made gradually.
Cancel my 1041/15/10/40 and 1739/7/7/41.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1843/19).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim Area on 18/8.

Enemy units reported in Trondheim area by R/C on 18/8.
In Aas Fjord. Hopleelven Fjord - One Minelayer (see diagram on page 12 of W.I.R. No. 22 of 9/8/40). Possibly being used as U-boat depot ship and 6 U-boats. Lofjord - U-boat depot ship SAAR and 2 U-boats.
At Trondheim.
One T/B one Aircraft Catapult ship, one Aircraft Security Vessel, one probable "M" Class M/S and 5 U-boats.
(D.D.I.C., 1619A/19) (F.O.S. 1922A/19 to RUBIS, and O.14).

2 M.V.s off Aalesund.

R/C at 1030 today report 2 M.V.s. in 062° 13' N., 005° 20' E. course 234°.
(F.O.S., 1759A/19 to RUBIS and O.14).
My 1759A/19. For 1030 read 1310. Ships are Finnish and of 4000 tons and unescorted.
(F.O.S., 2002A/19 to O.14 and RUBIS).

### Casualties and Defects.

PICOTEE (Missing since 0150/12).

My 1535/18. Two officers of DELAWARE state quite definitely they saw large cloud of dark smoke and a hissing sound of escaping steam from direction of PICOTEE. When smoke lifted they clearly saw bow of corvette rising out of water at angle of 45°. No flash no loud explosion only series of dull thuds. Officers are convinced corvette was not torpedoed and think explosion occurred on board ship itself. If this is the case submarine reported in my 1347/17 was presumably investigating.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1650/19).
Your 2140A/17. Following abridged report after interview with C.O. AYRSHIRE, PICOTEE and AYRSHIRE detached 0800/11 with Iceland portion of convoy. 1045/11 AYRSHIRE ordered by PICOTEE to screen on port bow PICOTEE took starboard bow. W/T guards ordered by PICOTEE were AYRSHIRE 500 Kcs. PICOTEE 107 Kcs. Both ships 2410 Kcs. (Loudspeakers). PICOTEE passed intercepted signal by light to AYRSHIRE 2300/11 reporting unidentified S/M sighted by A/C in 61° 36' N., 16° 20' W. AYRSHIRE had just received similar signal on 500 Kcs. reporting S/M in 61° 36' N. 17° 20' W. and drew PICOTEE's attention to discrepancy in longitude. AYRSHIRE estimated that position given in 17° 20' W. put S/M about 30 miles to Eastward of convoy. PICOTEE then informed AYRSHIRE by light that she intended to sweep astern of Convoy and proceeded accordingly. This was last signal received in AYRSHIRE from PICOTEE. AYRSHIRE commenced sweep ahead of Convoy, considering it desirable to remain with convoy unless otherwise ordered by PICOTEE. At about 0150/12 in about 62° 10' N., 18° 55'W. course 314° speed 7, wind N.W. 4, sea 34, visibility 1, PICOTEE was observed from

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## HOME COMMANDS.

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Casualties and Defects.

PICOTEE (missing since 0150/12). -Contd.

AYRSHIRE to steam up port side of Convoy at full speed, cross ahead of AYRSHIRE, and disappear down starboard side of Convoy. This was last time PICOTEE was seen by AYRSHIRE. About 5 minutes after PICOTEE passed ahead of AYRSHIRE pattern of 6 depth charges were heard. PICOTEE was by this time out of sight of AYRSHIRE and nothing unusual was observed in her direction in spite of a keen lookout. AYRSHIRE remained with Convoy.
AYRSHIRE reports (1) Convoy well closed up after 1045/11 (2) R/T sets with 4th E.G. tuned in in Minches and working well and AYRSHIRE then heard PICOTEE clearly. AYRSHIRE confirms that her R/T was receiving correctly at about 2200/11, but she had not had R/T communication with PICOTEE after leaving Minches. (3) Careful lookout kept on 12/8 for PICOTEE but, although visibility about 1 mile in darkness and maximum in daylight, no indication of PICOTEE observed.
(4) No rockets were observed in AYRSHIRE. C.O. of AYRSHIRE states that he is certain he can clearly distinguish the difference between a depth charge explosion and torpedo explosion.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2306/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Hartlepool.

Port of Hartlepool will be closed from 1000/20 for about 36 hours. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1655/19).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.4

Convoy O.N.4 has dispersed. Request you will issue necessary orders for ships to return to Base. (C. in C. W.A., 1015A/19 to C.C.N.F.)

W.S.11. FURIOUS.

A.C.N.S. (H) 1433/19 to C. in C. W.A., FURIOUS. (See Operations Volume).

S.C.39.

Congratulations on bringing all ships in your convoy S.C. 39 safely to U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 1520A/19 to Rear Adm. A.T. Tillard. 28 ships, including 13 Allied and 1 neutral. Cargoes. (D.S. 715, 20/8).

F.C. Ships.

Extension of Focke Wulf activity to Southward now makes it desirable to run Fighter Catapult ships right through to Gibraltar. If this is done, essential that replacement aircraft should be available at Gibraltar, failing which, if fighters were flown off during outward voyage, ship would be out of action for F.C. purposes until return to U.K.

/U.K.....

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping & Convoys.

F.C. Ships. - Contd.

U.K. with H.G. Convoy. Request necessary arrangements may be made as soon as possible. This applies to MAPLIN, ARIGUANI and SPRINGBANK, but not to PEGASUS who has insufficient endurance to reach Gibraltar, with a convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1719A/19 to Admty).

H.X.142.

Congratulations on splendid achievement in bringing your 21st convoy H.X.142 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1720A/19 to Vice Adm. F.A. Somerville) 64 ships including 13 Allied and 1 neutral. Cargoes. (D.S., 715, 20/8).

Iceland Tankers.

Sparkes has advised Shipminder London that American flag tankers W.E. HUTTON and EAGLE are due Hvalfjord 31/8 and PENNSYLVANIA on 1/9. Passage time appears short in view of sailing dates already advised. Request immediate confirmation accurate forecast essential if transfer of cargoes is to take place without unnecessary delay. (D.T.D. 1830A/19 to B.A.D. Washington).

Convoy Dervish.

Following stores have been loaded in vessels. (W.O., 2015/19 to No. 30 Military Mission). See Lion Copy.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| BOREAS. | BOREAS sailed 0600 to join O.G.71 routed 20 miles off Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A., 0600A/19, 0830/19 to Admty. etc., IMPERIALIST, SCOTTISH.) |
| French Sloop. | Class unknown steering 180° 14 knots 300° Cape Espichel 25 at 1100A/19. (IMPERIALIST, 1110A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)<br>My 1900 (reporting cruiser, cancelled at 1910A) probable French sloop steering (?) 180° am proceeding in executing previous orders. (BOREAS, 1924A/19, to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| CLYDE. | Further to my 1210A/17. CLYDE operates on Cape St. Vincent/Madeira line until 22, (?off) Madeira on 23 and 24 thence to Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/19 to Admty.) |
| Enemy M/V's. | Prevention of scuttling. Reply to 1007B/6 (F.O.C.N.A., 1520A/19 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| O.G.71. | GURKHA LANCE are joining escort of O.G.71 at 0030Z/20. (F.O.C.N.A. 1706A/19 to BOREAS.)<br>O.G.71, see also U/B Campaign. |
| DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. | On leaving O.S.5 in 043° 00' N., proceed independently through position (F) 022° 30' 022° 10' (D) 015° 30' 019° 30' thence direct to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C.S.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1904A/19 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.) |
| Gibraltar Defence. | Request for expert assistance. (Govr. Gib., 1828/19 to W.O.) |
| Gibraltar. | Re evacuation. (D. of L.D., 2322A/19 to F.O.C.N.A. See Operations Volume. |

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

**Operation "Ration".**

Durban arrival HAWKINS 2108Z/18 (2) Departure AUSTRALIA at 2350Z/18 in accordance with C. in C. S.A., 1123Z/17.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0005Z/19 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)
HAWKINS sailed in accordance with C. in C.S.A.'s 2315N/17.
(N.L.O. Durban 0814Z/19 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)
Your 2041/17. SOUTHERN BARRIER and ODBERG departed Durban 1600 G.M.T. and BLAAUBERG, CEDARBERG and SYOOTSLANDET departed Capetown 1700 G.M.T./18 for initial positions as ordered.
4 Glen Martin Maryland A/C are being sent from Pretoria to operate from Port Elizabeth in pairs for deep sea R/C in addition to coastal command Ansons. 2 of these Marylands may be available p.m./19.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0855Z/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

**CHRISTIAN HOLM, KOLLSKEGG**

Overdue shipping. CHRISTIAN HOLM due Capetown 14th from Aruba, KOLLSKEGG due Capetown 15th from Curacao both not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1117B/19 to Admty. etc.)

**QUEEN OF BERMUDA.**

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1855/16. Your 1003Q/13 not received. Propose QUEEN OF BERMUDA after relief as escort to DURBAN CASTLE shall call Bermuda to disembark aircraft in accordance with Admty. 1903/3/7 then proceed Newport News.
(C. in C. S.A., 1305N/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

**MONTCALM**

Report received from Chief Censor Mauritius graded by me A.3 that MONTCALM was at Dakar 17/8.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1430B/19 to AUSTRALIA, HAWKINS.)

**Convoy W.S.10.**

Admty. 1916B/7. Proposals re certain ships, and for onward escort from Cape.
(C. in C. S.A., 1615N/19 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

**Pointe Noire.**

At 1700 G.M.T./16 A/S boom barrage will be in position at entrance to Pointe Noire harbour. Boom will be opened at 0500 G.M.T. daily and closes at 1700 G.M.T. Vessels cannot enter Pointe Noire Harbour between the hours of 1700 G.M.T. to 0500 G.M.T. unless previous authority has been obtained from S.N.O. of F.N.F.L. at Pointe Noire.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1656/19.)

**Freetown.**

Port facilities. Reply to Admty. 1548A/14.
(C. in C. S.A. 1741N/19.)
See Lion Copy.

/ANTONIO.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### South Atlantic-Contd.

ANTONIO LIMONCELLI (Italian)

Chief of Staff tells me that ANTONIO LIMONCELLI lying 3 miles out at Maranham this morning asked for permission to sail. Permission refused. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1941Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Cables

My 1702B/3/6. Re a certain operation by LADY DENISON PENDER. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2354/19 to C. in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

### Mediterranean

Syrian Ports.

Reply to N.O.I.C. Syria 1423/1/8. From Adm. Muselier for Commandant Jaquet (Head of M., 0056A/19 to N.O.I.C. Syria) See Lion Copy. (Head of M. approved V.C.N.S., 0106A/19 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

CAPO ARMA (Italian)
ALBA JULIA
BALCIC (Roumanian)

Have all arrived at Trieste. Report that 2 had been sunk and other damaged should be disregarded. (D.S. 715, 20/8)

Suez Canal Raid.

Night 18/19, about 14 enemy A/C attacked Suez Canal zone, bombs dropped at Kantara and Suez. No serious damage or casualties. reported (See also 1327C/19)

Benghazi bombed.

Night 17/18,25 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, bombs bursting on bases of Juliana Central and Cathedral Moles and on railway sidings. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1013/19)

Enemy Units.

N4 - one destroyer - one trawler - 37.40 N., 24.08 E.,045 - 10 K. (A/C 39 Sqdn. 1040/19 to 201 Gp. H.Q.)

Enemy Convoy.

Convoy 2 hours ahead of schedule. (S.O.S. Malta 1313B/19 to URGE, UNBEATEN)
My 1401B/18. Later R/C shows convoy approaching position D from N.W. For Convoy in my 2015B/17 now 4 ships and 6 destroyers due Tripoli (Libya) about 0830/20 patrol UNIQUE in 033° 05' 013° 03' and P. 32 in 033° 16' 013° 10'. Attention is called to Q.B. 10. At 2000B/20 P.32 return to Malta as previously ordered, UNIQUE operating in area T. (S.O.S. Malta, 1316B/19 to UNIQUE, P.32)

/Suez

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

19.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Suez Raid | Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) 19/8, calm clear. (b) High level attack by six enemy A/C on Suez about 6 flares, waning moon. (c) H.E. and incendiary. (d) 20 H.E. bombs and 24 incendiaries 2 U.X. H.E. bombs. (e) No naval damage, one Naval officer slightly wounded. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1327C/19 to Admty.) |
| RORQUAL PORPOISE | Your 1754/6 Admty. letter quoted not yet received. Proposed RORQUAL should leave Mediterranean in time to arrive in U.K. in October provided PORPOISE has arrived at Station by that time. (C. in C. Med. 1345C/19 to F.O.S.) |
| A/C Attacked | (? Observation Aircraft) attacked by 2 100 M.E. Position 34.00 N., 24.27 E. (A/C T. 203 Sqdn. 1645/19 to 201 Group H.Q.) |
| Convoy B. | Return route of convoy B. with Vichy Troops from Syria. (C. in C. Med., 1647C/19 to Med. Fleet.) |
| Tripoli bombed. | Night 18/19. 5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 2150 to 2234 hours and dropped 13700 lbs. G.P. and 1200 lbs. incendiaries hits on and near Spanish Quay causing fires. Smoke screen made observation difficult, all aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1700/19.) |
| U-Boat. | Our P.S.N. 32 - 45 N., 31 - 25 E. (A/C "F" of No.203 Sqdn. 1755/19 to 201 Sqdn.) W.R. Note: Above refers to sighting of enemy submarine. |
| Enemy Convoy. | 4 escorted merchant ships P.C. and S. 033° 23' 012° 47' 345° 10 at 1700. (UNIQUE 1837B/19 to R.A. Malta.) |
| TRIUMPH | My 1713/14. TRIUMPH sailed 1700/19. (Cdr. S.1, 1922B/19 to UPHOLDER.) |

/MAYA.....

MOST SECRET

19.8.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

MAYA,
ALBARO.
(Italian)

Your 438 (of 8/8). Please confirm that the two Italian tankers loaded at Bourgas and not at Varna or Constanza, as there are conflicting reports on this point which, for special reasons, it is important to clear up. (M.E.W. 2300/19 to Istanbul)

Situation Report No. 122.

Western Desert. Destroyers and Minelayers escorted by Cruisers fitted with R.D.F. are carrying troops of Polish Brigade to reinforce Tobruk and withdrawing 18th Australian Brigade to Alexandria. This operation "Treacle" will continue for about 10 days.
Malta. Naval and R.A.F. Aircraft have successfully attacked enemy merchant shipping vide H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1601/18/8.
(C. in C. Med. 2301/19 to Admty.)

Service Personnel ORONSAY.

Your 1756/18. Further escorted sailings will not be required provided about 8 opportunities for passage per month limited as in your 1744/16/7 are provided. (C.in C. Med., 23310/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.8.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

Red Sea. Instructions for Shipping. (C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/19 to E.I. Stn). See Lion Copy.

Diego Garcia. Admty. 1748/6. Para (2). (A) Are guns and ammunition for Diego Garcia to be provided from Bombay, Ceylon or other source. (B) What arrangements have been made for provision of fire control instruments for Diego Garcia? (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0915Z/19 to Admty.)

R.N. Personnel My 1150/16/8. Your 0816Z/17/8, Admty. (Group omitted) A/18/8. In view of delay at Aden of W.S. 9B. necessitating further adjustment in arrival programme at Suez, Naval draft for U.K. will be embarked ex Suez 23 in ship 1055 for Durban and not in ORONSAY. Request routeing instructions. (P.S.T.C. Egypt 1131/19 to C. in C. E.I).
Your 1756A/18/8. (2) R.N. draft numbering 800 embarking ex Suez ?as in my 1131/19/8.)
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1232/19 to Admty.)
Your 1131/19 escort will not be available before 26/8. Request you will route MAURETANIA to wait at Aden. It is urgently requested that she should not ask for water or fuel there. (C. in C. E.I., 1404Z/19 to D.S.T.O. Egypt).

Diego Garcia. Defences. D. of L.D. 2331A/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (See Operations Volume).

### China.

TEGELBERG Dutch. Your 1320/18. Ship arrived Batavia 4/8. Batavia apparently only reported arrival to Singapore as result of query from here as to whereabouts. Necessary action taken. (S.O.I. Singapore 0401Z/19 to Admty.)

MUNSTERLAND. Yokohama Glen Line type ship returned 16/8, Kobe Departure 17/8, MUNSTERLAND. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0446Z/19 to Admty.)

KHAI DINH, French. Departure 19/8 for Shanghai. (Saigon 0835Z/19 to M. of W.T.).

/DANAE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.8.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| DANAE. | Penang departure 18/8 DANAE with convoy. (S.O.I. Singapore 1109Z/19 to Admty. etc.) |
| Pacific Routes. | Tentative agreement with U.S. for Pacific routeing plan under A.B.C. conditions. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2010A/19 to C. in C. China) See Lion Copy. |

### America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| BERA suspicious. | N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1855Z/16. BERA arrived Las Piedras 12/8 and sailed 13/8 for New York. Suggest in view of speed, C.A.F.O. 241/41, and reported light suspicious ship was not BERA. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1048R/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.) |
| Sink at Sight Zone, Pacific. | Policy of G.B. and U.S. Govts. (Head of M., 1055A/19 to B.A.D., Washington). See Lion Copy. |
| DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. W.S.11. | Admty. 1848A/18. As far as can be foreseen at present an A.M.C. of North Atlantic Escort Force can be made available this duty if required. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1202P/19 to C. in C. A.W.I). |
| RESOLUTION. | Your 2335A/14 and your 2138B/11/7. Is RESOLUTION to proceed to U.K. via Halifax to embark aircraft, aircraft stores, and Fleet Air Arm crews? Possibility of transport of above from Halifax to Philadelphia or Bermuda is doubtful. (B.A.R.M. 1214R/19 to Admty.) Reply: 1756/20. |
| DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. | Your 1848A/18. Escort will be provided. C. in C. South Atlantic is requested to say if he will provide escort to take over at 40° W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1232Q/19 to Admty.) |

/PRINSES.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.8.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.-Contd.

PRINSES JULIANA. Your 1812Q/12. As several small Vichy ships are being permitted to trade on this route it is not intended to press Dutch Govt. to alter employment of PRINSES JULIANA. (D.T.D. 1238A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I).

GREENWICH. FORTH. Admty. 1913A/18. FORTH cannot be surrendered until some arrangement is made for barracks accommodation of 50 officers and 230 ratings. Request passenger ship such as those employed by Canada Steamship Lines on Saguenay River may be requisitioned and sent to St. Johns for this purpose to arrive not later than 12/9, if FORTH is to be made available for other service immediately on arrival of GREENWICH. Propose this vessel be renamed AVALON pending construction of barracks on shore. (C.C.N.F., 1300Z/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Escort Groups C. in C. W.A. 1105A/18. Request you will sail Newfoundland Escort Groups as follows: O.N. 7 Group 18, O.N. 8 Group 19, O.N. 9 Group 25, O.N. 10 Group 15, O.N. 11 Group 16. (C.C.N.F. 1302Z/19 to A.C.I.C.

RICHMOND On completion of RICHMOND request she be sailed for St. John's N.F. with moderate despatch. (C.C.N.F. 1253Z/19 to B.A.R.M).
My 1716R/18. RICHMOND will sail for St. Johns N.F at 1800 Zone 5/22 C.C.N.F. pass to Capt. (D) N.F. (B.A.R.M. 1514R/19 to C.C.N.F) See 1326/20.

Japanese Ships. My 1848Z/13. D/F bearings indicate DAIITI OGURA MARU, KEN-YOOMARU, OMUROSAN MARU and SANRAMON MAHU are on Westerly course. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawe 1352Z/19 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

SURREY "Q" Report. Following intercepted by Bermuda Commercial W/T (Begins) QQQ from SURREY 24.3 N., unread, changed course S. 48 W. true speed 13 knots, 1325Z/19.(ends).
Have you any information? Details of SURREY's voyage not known. (C. in C. W.A. 1543Q/19 to C.O.A.C).
Following received from U.S. Naval Authorities: At 1322 G.M.T. today following intercept was reported QQQQ (Unknown Ship) 24° 03' N. 65° 04' W. course 048° Speed 13 knots. Chased. This is being passed to C.N.S. Ottawa. 1619/19. (Ends). (D.D.I.C. 2041A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
See 1445Z/20, 1602Z/20.

/CORSAIR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.8.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

CORSAIR. Can be accepted by Navy Yard Charleston South Carolina end of August. (B.A.R.M. 1602R/19 to C. in C. A.W.I).

ORBITA. T.C. 12B. Your 1926A/12. On arrival ORBITA at Halifax Master reports maximum speed 13.5 knots. In view of probable delay EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and hence sailing date being later than 25/8 suggested ORBITA be transferred to H.X. 147, which is a 10 knot convoy, in which case T.C.12B will have a 16 knot speed of advance and will be able to maintain expected arrival date in U.K. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1627Z/19 to Admty.) See 1522/20, 1806/20.

ILEX. Your 211A/18. ILEX can be accepted but port cannot be given until approx. date of arrival is known. (B.A.R.M., 1646R/19 to Admty.)

Finnish Ships. Your 1604Z/14. Finnish Ships carrying cargoes destined for U.S. or proceeding on voyages approved by U.S. Maritime Commission should not be seized vide A.M. 1948B/5. (D.T.D. 2141A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CIRCASSIA. Your 1127N/18. No objections but it is probable crew will have to remain in CIRCASSIA for at least three weeks vide my 1202Q/18. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2212Q/19 to C. in C. S.A).

Service Personnel via Iceland. Owing to lack of accommodation in Iceland, decided to suspend trans-atlantic traffic via Reykjavik. Last batch of R.A.F. for Halifax will be sent from U.K. in Convoy D. S.10 on 21/8. LACONIA should be the last A.M.C. carrying personnel from Halifax to Reykjavik. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 1152P/9/8 not to all addressees refers). (A.C.N.S. (H) 2320A/19 to R.A.3, A.C.I.C).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1941.
Tuesday

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### General

Enemy Tactics. For information, one destroyer escort has been torpedoed and sunk and one corvette believed torpedoed and sunk whilst escorting convoys in Western Approaches. This may indicate a deliberate change in enemy tactics. (C. in C. W.A. 1456A/19 to W.A., C.M., 165N)

### Ships Attacked

O.G. 71. BATH, ALVA, AGUILA, CISCAR, Sunk.

O.G. 71 attacked by U-Boats at 0115A/19 in 048° (?30') N., 017° 46' W. H.M.S. BATH and SS ALVA torpedoed and sunk, survivors being picked up. And again at 0310A/19, casualties not yet known. (LEITH 0300A/19 to Admty.)
ALVA, British, 1584 tons, Glasgow to Lisbon with coal. (D.S. 714, 19/8).

Following has been read - de 31, torpedo passed ahead port side (ends) (Valencia Radio, 0335/19).

Am standing by with HYDRANGEA picking up survivors from BATH. Only 46 recovered so far. After transferring survivors at daylight HYDRANGEA will rejoin convoy. She will have on board 8 dangerously wounded which cannot be moved. M.O. of WANDERER will remain in her to attend to them. My position 049° 38' N., 017° 34' W. (WANDERER, 0427A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

SS AGUILA, No. 41 Cmdre. and CISCAR No. 21., sunk in attack at 0310A/19 049° 23' N., 017° 56'W Known survivors ALVA - 11, AGUILA - master and 14 CISCAR 25. W.A.C.I. part 3. (a) nil (b) both from ahead (c) N.E. 8- H.M.S. BATH in H.A. as above and ALVA No. 61. (f) 232° - 1½ hours. 162° - ½ hours. (g) very dark - wind west 4 sea 34 (h) U-Boat probably stopped ahead and allowed convoy to over-run them. Light seen near torpedoed ships just before attack. ST. ALBANS not in company. (LEITH 0915A/19 to Admty.)
AGUILA, British 3255 tons, Liverpool for Lisbon and Gibraltar with general cargo;
CISCAR, British, 1809 tons, Bristol for Gibraltar with Govt. stores. (D.S. 715, 20/8)

/My P.C./S....

MOST SECRET

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19.8.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

My P. C. and S 050° N., 017° W., 042° 12. Estimate have just sufficient fuel to reach Lough Foyle if weather does not deteriorate. Have on board 35 survivors from BATH. HYDRANGEA rejoining convoy has 9 other seriously wounded and 2 who died during the night. Total number picked up is therefore 46 which includes 1st Lieutenant and engineer both seriously wounded. (Weather) (WANDERER, 1100A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Following account of sinking of BATH gleaned from survivors. BATH - in A.S.V. position 2½ miles astern convoy. At 0110A/19 U-Boat sighted on starboard beam. Before star shell could be fired torpedo seen (corrupt group) 090° 300 yards. Hit engine room, ship at once broke in two and sank within 3 minutes. 2 depth charges set 100 feet exploded as beam sank causing numerous casualties. U-Boat presumably passed on into convoy. (WANDERER, 1116A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Expect to join LEITH at 0030z/20. (GURKHA 1530A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
D/F bearings at 1426 G.M.T. indicate O.G. 71 is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1618A/19 to LEITH LANCE GURKHA etc.) Ops./896 19/8.
O.G. 71 will be escorted until 1700/21 when estimated position of Convoy will be 42.15 N., 16.13 W. Can you arrange escort from that time and place.? (H.Q.C.C. 1635/19 to 200 Group.)
D/F Bearings at 2110 G.M.T. indicate O.G. 71 is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 2324B/19 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA. ST. ALBANS etc.)

HORN SHELL (Torpedoed 26/7)

Your (2352?) A/17 not to Admty. Trawler MARIA LEONOR intercepted at 0920A/19 in 034° 51' N., (009°?)(55') W. 8 survivors from HORN SHELL taken on board AVON VALE. Survivors state ship was torpedoed at dark/26/7 in 032° 23' 023° 20'. 4 lifeboats made initially for Madeira. This boat became separated on 2nd night and made for Canary Islands. Boat was found by trawler in 025° (05'?) N., 016° (25'?) W. on 14/8. Third (Officer of?) boat injured but will recover. Necessary provisions supplied to trawler. 5 Chinese survivors were left (on board?). Names of British survivors follow. (AVON VALE 1131A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/DESIGNER....

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Ships Attacked-Contd.

DESIGNER (Torpedoed 9/7). — My 1520/18. Survivors names. Further interrogation reveals that large vessel stopped for five minutes within half a mile (Description). When torpedo struck DESIGNER No. 1. hold blew up. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1515B/19 to Admty. etc.)

### Submarines Reported

0754/15. — PARTHIAN reports that at 0754/15 in 45° 02' N., 09° 02' W. dived for unidentified vessel sighted at short range in heavy rain squall. Nothing heard after diving. This was probably referred to in Admty. 0925A/15 giving Italian U-Boats report of sighting. (F.O.S. 1221A/19 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1438A/19

0400/15. — On July 15 at 0400 a submarine sighted about 30 miles from Cape Sta. Maria. C.2. (N.A. Lisbon 1204/9 to D.N.I.)

3 German U-Boats in Bay of Biscay area inward bound. (F.O.S. 1609A/19 to Pol.S/M SOKOL)

2125A — Periscope sighted 58° 30' N., 2° 42' W. (STELLA CAPELLA 2125A/19 to S. and A., Orkneys etc.)

### Submarines Attacked

By A/C. — Am over Enemy S/M in 49.40 N., 17.25 W., Enemy previously reported was sighted on surface and seen to submerge. (A/C, call sign M.K. 7, 0745/19 to 15 R. Gp. H.Q.)
Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs (dive) depth charges. Nil hits. Enemy's course 188° (A/C call sign M.K.7, 0755/19 to 18 Gp. H.Q.)
Aircraft report U-Boat in 049° 40' N., 018°35' W at 0745A. At 16 knots E.T.A. 1230A/19. Have not met O.G. 71. (ST. ALBANS, 0830A/19 to C. in C. W.A. amended 1001A/19) W.D. Note:- Position apparently decoded wrongly by ST.ALBANS A/C report was KR (49° N.) W.M. (18° W) 4035 = 49.40 N., 17.25 W., but see 1210/19.

/Am in.....

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Tuesday

War Diary

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Am in position reported in his 0755/19, cannot make contact with aircraft Duty 'J'.
(WANDERER, 0915A/19 to H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0830A/19. Position given by aircraft was 49° 40' N., 17° 25' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1055A/19 to ST. ALBANS)
Your 1055A/19. Have altered course and my E.T.A. in new position 1430A/19. (ST. ALBANS 1140A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
Correct U-Boat position by landfall 48.16 N., 16.46 W. (A/C J5 of No. 15 Group, 1210/19 to 15 Gp. H.Q.)

By A/C

Am over enemy submarine in 60.53 N., 29.10 W. (G.A.M.? A/C H. of 209 Squadron, 1404/19 to S.A. 8 (?))
Periscope only sighted of enemy S/M previously reported. When first sighted was on course 324° 5 knots. (GAM ? A/C H of 209 Sqdn. 1406/19 to S.A. 8 (?)) (D.S. 715)
I have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate nil hits. (GAM A/C H Sqdn. 1410/19 to S.A. 8 (?))

By STELLA CAPELLA

At 2125/19, 58.30 N., 2.42 W., 10' E. of Wick. D/C's dropped, result not yet reported. (D.S. 715, 20/8.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation 'Dervish'. An enemy aircraft reconnoitred Iceland (C) this morning. Convoy DERVISH (Stores and equipment for Russia) was passing the boom at the time.

British Air Operations.

Six aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Le Havre last night.

A reporting vessel was attacked and possibly damaged today N.E. of Heligoland, and two E-boats attacked off St. Valerie this morning may have been damaged.

A Hudson claims a direct hit this evening on a small merchantman off Karmo.

Enemy Air Operations.

Steam trawler JULIET was bombed and sunk this afternoon whilst fishing about 25 miles S. by W. of the Old Head of Kinsale. Her crew were subsequently machine gunned in their boat, but no casualties were caused.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Off Cromer. Polish S.S. CZESTOCHOWA in Convoy F.N.7 was sunk by underwater explosion, believed to be a mine in the early hours of to-day in 53° 11' 30" N. 1° 6' E. S.S. DALEWOOD in the same convoy was mined and badly damaged near the same position but was towed to the Humber.

Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated in the Estuary to-day.

South Atlantic.

H.M.T. LORINDA broke down yesterday and sank early today on passage from Freetown to Capetown.

With reference to the report of a possible raider on 18/8 in 30° S. 12° 35' E., D/F bearings at 0037Z to-day indicated enemy surface units within 150 miles of position 25° S. 7° E.

Mediterranean.

6 Hurricanes attacked Syracuse at Noon to-day.

UNIQUE this morning attacked a convoy of 4 liners with escort of destroyers, T.B's, M.A.S., and flying boats in approx. 33° N., 13° E. 3 hits were obtained on S.S. ESPERIA (11,398 tons.) The result is not reported. During the afternoon UNIQUE was attacked by a flying boat and slightly damaged.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.41.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Libya and Western Desert. | 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. |
| Alexandria and Canal Area. | A few enemy aircraft were over Alexandria early this morning. A few bombs were dropped and it is believed that mines were laid in the harbour. No damage or casualties were caused. |
| | Tanker TURBO was torpedoed by aircraft p.m. today north of Port Said but reached Port Said under her own power. |
| Syria and Palestine. | Two destroyers are now based at Beirut and one cruiser at Haifa. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

Sweeping ahead of convoys. My 1824/27/7. Regular sweeping ahead of these convoys is to cease. To reinforce convoy escorts CORIOLANUS JULIET and HORATIO are to return to operational control of Comdr.A/P. (C. in C. Plymouth 1820/20 to Capt. M/S, Comdr.A/P.)

### Movements.

ALCA. Intend sailing ALCA in convoy O.S. 1600/23 for Bathurst in compliance with Adty. 1207A/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1036/20.)

S/M O.14. Orders for leaving patrol after dark 22/8 for Dundee. (Capt.(S) 9. 1057A/20, 1445A/20 to O.14.)

P.34. Cancel my 1135A/17/8. Sailing is postponed. (S.S. 1142A/20.)

Speeds on E.coast. When between 21 A Buoy and 17 Buoy vessels other than those operating S.A. are normally to proceed at speeds not greater than 10 knots. If it is necessary to make the passage at speeds greater than 10 knots speeds between 10 and 20 knots should be avoided. (C. in C.Rosyth 1510/20 to MAORI, HESPERUS.)

PRINCE OF WALES. The President of the U.S. has stated that locality of recent meeting with the Prime Minister will not be announced until after the War, because of certain scientific information which the enemy could glean if it were made public now. It has been decided that we should also conform to this. Request arrangements may be made to ensure that the recent movements of the PRINCE OF WALES shall not be disclosed with the exception of the visit to Iceland. (1st S.L. 1642A/20 to C. in C.H.F.)

A.F.D.IV. Sailed 1800 A.F.D.IV., POZARICA, KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK, VIVIEN. Tugs: EMPIRE HENCHMAN, FREEBOOTER, SUPERMAN, H/Ls 177, 157. (C. in C. Plymouth 1914/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GRAB Patrol. GRAB Patrol out 1100/20. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0723A/20.)
GRAB Patrol withdrawn 1500/20 August.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1517A/20.)

Convoy "Dervish". Arrived convoy "Dervish" and escort 0630Z.
(A.C.I.C.0929/20 to C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Lights for Force A. S.O. Force 'A' requests arrangements may be made for following lights to be exhibited during darkness 23/29 August Mount Sazonova, Cape Orlov Terski, Veshnyak Island. T.O.O. 1321A/19. (C. in C.H.F. 0935A/20 to Adty.)

Russian Co-operation. Request you will arrange:-
(a) Approach channel to White Sea may be watched and swept by Russian forces before arrival of (1) Convoy "Dervish" (2) EMPRESS OF CANADA. Date of arrival of latter will be signalled later.
(b) Air protection where possible for both operations including duration of stay of vessels in harbour.
(c) That Russian naval and air forces may remain South of lat. 073° N. from 26/8 until Convoy "Dervish" has passed long. 15° E. on return.
2. S.B.N.O. Murmansk is requested to arrange that British submarines conform with paragraph (c) above. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1026A/20 to Admiral Miles.)

A/S Trawler patrol. Your 1015A/19. Patrol west of Faeroes withdrawn at 1200/20. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1250A/20 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations "Dervish" "Strength". D. One is 21/8. (C. in C.H.F. 1317A/20 to A.C.O.S., F.O.(S), C.S.1, ARGUS, HARRIER, Adty. R.A.(D) H.F., SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, ELECTRA, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.I.C., R.A.2nd B.S.)

Special Operation. Your 2332A/19. M.T.B.34 detailed. (C. in C. Nore 1432A/20 to Adty.)

P.W.14. Intend carrying out operation P.W.14 with 5 M.T.B's tonight Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore. 1502A/20 to Adty., V.A. Dover.)

/Force A. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Force A. Request signals to S.O. Force A. may be kept to a minimum. My 1049A/19, signals which will be made on BN broadcast (a guard on which is being kept until 1200A 21) should bear D.G's for Force 'A' and signals in HD broadcast should bear D.G's for North Sea Force etc. A.C.O.S. is requested to repeat both types of signals on Scapa auxiliary wave. (C. in C.H.F. 1502A/20 to Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Rosyth F.O. 2nd i/c H.F., A.C.O.S.)

FURIOUS, re secret signals. Open draft notes and/or signals in plain language disclosing destination of FURIOUS next operation which was most secret are being received from DAEDALUS, JACKDAW and HERON. (FURIOUS 1518A/20 to V.A. N.A.S.)

Beacons for "Gauntlet". Your 1956/19. As convoy will presumably arrive off Cape Kanin on 31/8 Soviet Naval authorities are reluctant to start beacons before 0700/ G.M.T./30. This seems to me reasonable and suggest we concur. (Admiral Miles 1823C/20 to Adty.)

? P.W.14. Harwich departures M.T.B's 30, 32, 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930A/20.)

British Air Operations.

A/S search. In confirmation of telephone conversation. Request A/S search assuming that a U-boat was within 20 miles PF 58° 45' N. 3° W. at 2200/19. Suggest search each side of course to Bergen as far as practicable. (C. in C.H.F.1126A/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Patrols. FATE II will be flown from 1315 to 2015 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1130/20.)
STAND now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1900/20.)

Balloons at Oban. H.Q.C.C. report that N.O.I.C. Oban has been instructed to fly balloons from anchored merchant vessels at 3,000 ft. This is contrary to the regulation agreed between Adty., and Air Staff. Request N.O.I.C. Oban be instructed to revert to original arrangement of 150 ft. which is considered only practicable means of safe-guarding aircraft operating in vicinity. (Air Min. 1600/20 to Adty.)

/Prestwick.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations - Contd.

Prestwick - Archangel Air Service. Russians hope to begin service about 25/8. Request as much as possible of following be telegraphed at once remainder by quickest route. (Air Mission Moscow 1735/20 to Air Min.)

Lancaster 1 A/C's. Lancaster 1 aircraft are now flying. Description. (Air Min. 1745/20.)

Convoy "Dervish". Request you arrange if practicable for air protection to be available for Convoy "Dervish" during passage through Denmark Straits. Object to drive off shadowers. (F.O.2 i/c.H.F. 2059A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Air Operations.

"Dervish" sighted by A/C. German aircraft sighted over Hvalfjord at 0702Z 20. Convoy "Dervish" passing boom at that time and was probably seen. Aircraft disappeared to west at 0745 after flying over Reykjavik aerodrome. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0802/20 to Adty.)

Blenheim over Thorshavn. At 0700A/20 an aircraft subsequently identified as a Blenheim flew twice over the town and harbour of Thorshavn at about 500 ft., made no attempt to identify itself and was engaged by machine guns from ships in harbour. It is particularly requested aircraft may be instructed to avoid as far as possible flying over the land or harbours of these islands. Four Bofors guns are now mounted in the vicinity of Thorshavn. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1006/20 to A.C.O.S.)

R/C of Iceland. A German aircraft carried out R/C of Iceland today 20/8. (D.D.I.C.1257A/20 to A.C.I.C., C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.)

A/C engaged. Report whether aircraft was engaged by convoy or escort at about 0220 today Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore. 1505A/20 to LIDDESDALE.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

S.S.DALEWOOD
CZESTOCHOWA
mined.

(GLNG) DALEWOOD Mined in 053° 11' 24" N. 001° 05' 30" E. Ship may remain afloat. (CATTISTOCK 0522A/20.)
Polish ship CZESTOCHOWA sunk under water explosion considered to be mine in 053° 11' 30" N. 001° 06' E. ship is completely submerged. Motor launches 195 and 197 have 24 survivors between them including master, I have one, am damning position. (SHELDRAKE 0345A/20.)
DALEWOOD mined, stem badly damaged. Am taking in tow. Request tugs. PETER HENDRICKS in company. 3 killed 8 survivors in PUFFIN and 3 injured men aboard CATTISTOCK. My position 053° 11' 48" N. 001° 07' E. (CATTISTOCK 0430/20.)
Departure Tug KROOMAN at 0530 to assist S.S. DALEWOOD in distress in 53° 11' N. 01° 05' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0533A/20.)
Departure tug DIVERSION at 0600 to assist S.S. DALEWOOD and S.S. CZESTOCHOWA in distress in 053° 12' N. 001° 06' E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0620A/20.)
Am escorting PETER HENDRIKS towing DALEWOOD proceeding towards Humber. Position 053° 12' N. 001° 10' E. speed 4 knots. (SHELDRAKE 0620A/20.)
SHELDRAKE 0620. Proceeding at 20 knots. Propose to enter Humber to transfer one seriously wounded cot case, 2 slightly injured and one other and then rejoin convoy. E.T.A. Humber L.V. 0900. (CATTISTOCK 0633A/20.)
Departure tug SCOTSMAN to assist S.S. DALEWOOD at 0910. Tug SABINE at 0730. (F.O. Humber, 0917A/20.)
Departure SCAWFELL to escort S.S. DALEWOOD in tow 0945. (F.O. Humber 1050A/20.)
S.S. CZESTOCHOWA of F.N.7 sunk by underwater explosion in 53° 11' 30" N. 01° 06' E. Casualties unknown and 25 survivors landed at Humber.
S.S. DALEWOOD of same convoy stern badly damaged by explosion in position 53° 11' 24" N. 01° 05' 30" E. Ship in tow of PETER HENDRIKS to Humber. Tugs have left to assist. Casualties 3 killed, 3 injured. Nine other survivors landed at Humber by CATTISTOCK and PUFFIN. Explosions believed by escorts to have been caused by mines, but possibility of long range torpedoes from E.Boats cannot be overlooked. (C. in C. Nore 1146A/20.) 25 Survivors from S.S. CZESTOCHOWA landed Grimsby, one believed lost with ship. 11 Survivors from S.S. DALEWOOD landed Grimsby. 8 Survivors and 3 bodies believed on board. (F.O. Humber 1500A/20.)
F.O.I.C. Humber reports wreck of CZESTOCHOWA located in 53° 11' 40" N. 01° 05' 36" E. Request QZH and buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2209A/20 to Adty.)

/Operation .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining - Contd.

**Operation N.L.19.** Intend to carry out operation N.L.19 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1004A/20.)

**Operation S.N.22 B.** My 1814A/18. Now intend to carry out as follows with AGAMEMNON and NEWARK on 22/8. Details. (R.A.M.1058A/20) See Operations Volume.

**Operation S.N.70 A.** Intentions. (R.A.(M) 1134A/20.) See Operations Volume.

**Forthcoming operations.** R.A.(M)'s 1037/19. It is not intended to provide another survey ship. Greater tolerance and less clear water can be accepted.
2. The A.A. ship is required in addition to ADVENTURE. Could WELSHMAN and MANXMAN if available, be considered ?
3. Reference C. in C. H.F. 1111/H.F.001340 not to R.A.(M), no mines are to be laid south of latitude 57° 06' N.
4. C. in C.H.F.2150A/19. Concur. R.A.(M) is requested to do this locally.
5. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1302A/20 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Rosyth R.A.(M).)

**Thames Estuary.** S.A. Mine exploded 0659/20 in 51° 48.5' N. 1° 30.8' E. ½ cable from EARL KITCHENER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1417A/20.)

**Swedish Minelaying between Oland and German area.** Your 1815/26 para A. Is this done yet? (D.N.I. 1603A/20 to N.A. Stockholm.)

### Enemy Intelligence.

**Unknown fishing vessel.** Unknown fishing vessel was sighted from shore 20 miles S. of Prawle Point at 0800/20. M.L. and A/C searched. A/C sighted her at 1455 too close to French coast for M.L. to chase and board. Military and police in Devon and Cornwall informed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1818/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

S.S.PORTHMEOR sunk.

GLENDENE sank S.S. PORTHMEOR Cardiff for Dublin at 0315. Ship capable of 9 knots. Mate only survivor of crew of 10. (INDIAN STAR 0745A/20 FOWEY 1959/20.)

ACHATES.

Request long term weather forecast for area Faeroes to Tyne with special reference to wind and sea may be passed to TARTAR commencing a.m./21.
2. TARTAR will be escorting ACHATES damaged and in tow from Faeroes to Tyne approx. speed 5 knots. (R.A.(D) 1021A/20 to Adty.)
In view of my 1613/13 preferable that ACHATES should not arrive Tyne earlier than a.m./27. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1738/20 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

GOLDEN WEST.
CALEDONIA.

N.C.S. Steam Drifter GOLDEN WEST was in collision with Methil Pilot Launch CALEDONIA in Methil Roads at 1030/19. No damage to GOLDEN WEST stem of CALEDONIA damaged but vessel seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1248/20.)

HEYTHROP.

Arrived HEYTHROP with defects to stern Gland. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1521A/20, 1924A/20.)

M.G.B.60.

Regret M.G.B.60 sustained damage by fire on 18/8 damage more extensive than at first appeared. (BEEHIVE 1709A/20 to R.A.C.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.71.

Shortage of fuel will necessitate GURKHA and LANCE leaving convoy on 25/8. (GURKHA 1905A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)
Admty. 2258/15. GURKHA, LANCE will come under the orders of S.O. Force H. on arrival with O.G.71 at Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A. 1426A/20 to S.O. Force H. etc.)
O.G.71 alter course after dark tonight 20/8 direct for position L. Omit K. Then as ordered previously. (C. in C.W.A. 1557A/20 to Escorts of O.G.71, GURKHA, LANCE.)

/C.E.46 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

C.E.46. Following are convoy call signs for C.E.46. (Capt. D.1. 1416/20 to V.A. Dover etc.)

W.S.11 LIVELY. R.A.D. is requested to sail LIVELY to arrive Clyde 28/8. LIVELY is to sail with W.S.11 on 30/8 and boiler cleaning is to be postponed till arrival at Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A. 1431A/20 to R.A.D.H.F. etc.)
C.2 will be unable to sail in W.S.11 owing to breakdown of refrigerating machinery. (D.S.T.O. Liverpool 1745/20 to D. of S.T.)

O.S.4. H.G.71. My 2215B/8. Local escort of O.S.4 will meet H.G.71 on 28/8. (C. in C.W.A. 1521A/20 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| EUGENIO C. Italian. | Left Ferrol 1 a.m. Wednesday 20/8 after taking 80 tons bunkers. (Corunna 1600/20 to Admty.) |
| Spanish Ships War Material. | Following received from British Consul Valencia (begins) Arrival 17/8 Spanish steamer CASTILLO OROPESA from Barcelona; 19/8, Spanish Gunboat CANALEJAS. Informed that first named has on board 60 motor lorries and will take more and also war material probably for Ceuta 2001/19 (ends) (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1623/20 to Admty.) |
| French Convoy. | Gibraltar 0916 French Sloop ENGAGEANTE French ships ARCTURUS, CARIMARE, LIEUTENANT DE LA TOUR, all laden passed Westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1711A/20 to Admiralty etc.) |
| Aircraft Las Palmas. | Several unidentifiable large aircraft passed without landing southbound. (Las Palmas, 1800/20 to Admty.) |
| VIMY H.G. 71. | Departure VIMY to join H.G. 71 during daylight 23/8 and remaining till limit of prudent endurance. (F.O.C.N.A. 2230A/20 to Admty. etc.). |

### South Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| CARNARVON CASTLE Suspicious ship. | Am chasing suspicious vessel. My position is 029° 54' S., 047° 48' W. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 0110Z/20 to R.A.S.A.D., C. in C. S.A.)<br>My 0110Z/20. Ship still in sight, my P.C. and S. 029° 41' S., 049° 36' W. 000° 16 knots, intend shadowing until daylight.<br>(CARNARVON CASTLE 0200Z/20 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D). |

/QUEEN OF BERMUDA...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Your 2212/18. Personnel are already on board and one Seafox will be embarked before QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves Capetown. C. in C. S.A.'s 1305/19 refers. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1138B/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

LORINDA sunk. Trawler BALTA and LORINDA on passage South. Report from BALTA received at 0700/19 that LORINDA was broken down engine failed and in tow at 1200/19, 6° 30' N., 11° 37' W. Proceeding Freetown LAVENDER on patrol was ordered to proceed and assist. At 0400/20 BALTA reported LORINDA making water, fires out. No immediate danger. At 0610/20 reported would have to abandon ship shortly. At 0845/20 reported LORINDA sunk, all crew safe. BALTA returning to Freetown. No information as to cause yet. (C. in C. S.A., 1151N/20 to Admty).

18th D.F. Following destroyers normally based on Freetown will form the 18th Destroyer Flotilla:- BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART (Divisional leader), VELOX, VIMY, WILD SWAN, WIVERN (Divisional Leader), WRESTLER.(C. in C. S.A., 1221N/20).

W.S.10 REINA DEL PACIFICO. Your 1615/19. Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, requests REINA DEL PACIFICO may also be diverted to Capetown where personnel can be more conveniently distributed. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1247B/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

LADY DENISON PENDER, cable -operation. Your 1245N/19 (N.T. in W.D.) Operation ordered in my 2354/19 should be carried out first and in view of ship's slow speed the date of 27/8 may be extended at your discretion. Preferred that ship should then proceed to Cape Town for docking and not Lagos.(D.S.D., 1253A/20 to C. in C. S.A.) Your 2354/19 and 1253/20. LADY DENISON PENDER will arrive in position about 28/8 and will require at least seven days in area. Escort will be provided. (C.in C. S.A., 2027N/20 to Admty).

GASCON. Admty 2236/19 (N.T. in W.D.) (interception of GASCON) is repeated to you. Consul General Loanda has been informed that ship will be available to intercept 21/8. It is important to keep out of sight of land. If intercepted ship is to be sent to Capetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1701N/20 to ALBATROSS).

/Suspicious.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

Suspicious Ship. Message 0055/20 from F.O.I.C. Simonstown (N.T.in W.R.) (2) U.S.A. ship PRESIDENT FILLMORE p.m./18 in 30° S., 12° 35' E., course 130° sighted strange vessel steering 45° which crossed his bow passing on port side and altered to 260° approx. Stranger asked "What ship" and U.S.A., vessel gave name and in turn asked "What ship" reply being "Sorry".
(3) Description. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1740B/20 to Admty etc.)

PRETORIA CASTLE. Return to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1933N/20 to PRETORIA CASTLE.)

BULOLO. From position B proceed direct to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1959N/20 to BULOLO.)

PRIMULA. My 0818/16 and 1918/18. Trials not yet satisfactory. Further signal will be made when ship is ready to sail. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2005B/20 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.10. EDINBURGH. Your 1615N/19.
1. Service personnel mentioned in C. in C. Med., 1450/6 will be embarked in MAURETANIA leaving Aden (date) for Durban where personnel will be transhipped to a returning ship of W.S.10 for escorted passage to U.K.
2. Advantage should also be taken of this opportunity to clear any service personnel awaiting passage to U.K. from Cape area.
3. Intended that EDINBURGH should act as escort for this ship from Durban or Cape to U.K. Therefore at your discretion to arrange escort of W.S.10 from Cape to Durban, observing that EDINBURGH should boiler clean in Cape area but should not otherwise be delayed.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2222A/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Aircraft carriers. | Request for 2. Policy. (C. in C. Med., 0930C/20 to Admty) See Lion Copy. |
| Alexandria Raid. | Night 19/20. About 6 enemy A/C operated over Alex. No bombs dropped but believed mines laid. in harbour. No fighters sent up owing to bad weather conditions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.1001/20). Alexandria air raid 0345 to 0515/20 5 or 6 enemy high level bombing, using flares. About 20 medium bombs over wide area. No damage or casualties. (R.A. Alexandria, 1221C/20). |
| Vichy Convoy C. | Route to Beirut. (C. in C. Med., 1048C/20 to Med., Fleet amended 1154/21. |
| GALATEA. | GALATEA is to join 15th Cruiser Squadron. (C. in C. Med., 1115/20). |
| Fast Supply Ships. | Your 1045/11 Para 4 and 1022/17. 4 Northern's would be very useful but smaller number would be acceptable. WOLBOROUGH has been converted locally for cargo carrying. (C. in C. Med., 1350C/20 to Admty). |
| PERSEUS, AJAX, NEPTUNE, TALISMAN. | ?PERSEUS leaves Alexandria 1930C/20 through 032° 20' 029° 35' and Kaso Strait to Aegean. AJAX, NEPTUNE operating to N.E. of Ras Al Melh night of 20/21. TALISMAN leave Alexandria 1930C/21 through 033° 35' 025° 32' and 033° 35' 020° 00' to Gulf of Sirte. (Capt. S.1., 1350C/20 to TORBAY). |
| Italian Fleet. | Disposition of Main Units. (D.D.I.C., 1542A/20) See Lion and Tiger Copies. |
| Malta Raid. | Night 19/20 3-5 raiders dropped some incendiaries. No damage, civilian casualties. |
| Syracuse attacked. | 6 Hurricanes attacked Syracuse noon 20/8. 3 Balloons down in flames. Oil tanks repeatedly hit, but cannon ricoched and did not appear to penetrate. Two seaplanes damaged. Boom ships also attacked. Complete surprise. All aircraft returned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/20). |
| Yugoslav Forces. | Your 2354B/21/7. The two M.T.B.s and crews are efficient and are being employed operationally. S/M NEBOJSCA is unfit for further service as a submarine without very extensive refit. She could be used for training Folbot parties or as a power unit. Crew can be considered partly trained. |

/Personnel.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Yugoslav Forces. - Contd.

Personnel remaining (A) 9 officers, two of whom are proceeding to England for courses, are partly trained. (B) 10 ratings, partly trained. Commander Saksida is collecting other units which should amount to about 70. He is confident of obtaining sufficient men to man a small submarine and a small destroyer in addition to the two M.T.B.s already in commission. (C. in C. Med., 1928/20 to Admty).

Crete, guerilla warfare.

Pacific transmission of B.B.C. 0615 G.M.T. 20/8. carried following. Guerilla warfare has broken out on the island of Crete and it is learned that the people are being supplied with arms by ships which sail into shallow bays and creeks. German warehouses have been set on fire also a large store of olive oil (ends). Urgently requested here all items bearing on resistance and escapes be stopped. (C. in C. M.E., 2200/20 to W.O.)

Situation Report No. 123. THORBRYN, sunk, TURBO torpedoed.

A/S Trawler THORBRYN bombed and sunk off Tobruk 0830/19 when towing 2 D Lighters. Rescue Schooner from Tobruk also sunk and both lighters seen drifting into Enemy Territory. No news of any survivors except from Schooner. SKUDD 5 and 2 Lighters bombed by 31 JU 87, no damage.
Syria. Two Destroyers now based at Beirut, one Cruiser at Haifa.
Canal Area. Tanker TURBO torpedoed by Aircraft P.M./20, N., of Port Said, 32° 08' N., 31° 57' E. proceeding south slowly under own power. Assistance being sent. Alexandria, air raid night 19/20 no damage.
(C. in C. Med., 2256C/20).

German Ships.

Departure 19/8 Lisbon MURRUCHA in ballast. ELIZABETH H. FISSER ready to sail with cargo iron ore probably for Savona.
(Valencia, 2310/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

DORIS. Cancel my 0530/17. DORIS arrived Aden. (S.O.I. Colombo 0506Z/20 to Admty.)

S.S.COMPIEGNE (French). No.438. In view of suspension of all sailings of French ships to or from Madagascar, attention is drawn to possible significance of the projected sailing of the COMPIEGNE from Saigon. It is known -
(a) general cargo aboard for Madagascar and Reunion valued at over 25,000,000 francs including cement for Diego Suarez and Majunga harbour works, tinplate, sacks, soap, candles and clothing. Arrival would impair effects of our blockade.
(b) French Admiralty coal for Diego Suarez valued at 7,000,000 francs probably aboard.
(c) 1,500 tons of graphite purchased by Japan awaits shipment by French Steamer from Madagascar in September. No other opportunity in sight.
2. Other reasons may be opportunity to despatch Government mails from Indo-China by air from Madagascar to Franco, and carriage of important passengers and possibly troops and munitions, but no evidence of this. Please inform Blanketing. (Governor, Mauritius, No.T.O.O/20.)

W.S.9 B. Embarkations ex Suez returning vessels W.S.9 B. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1252/20 to C. in C.E.I.)

Operation "Countenance". (1st S.L. 2158A/20 to C. in C.E.I.) See Operations Volume.

### China.

SAGITTAIRE. (French) Reported with cargo of rubber for France turned back near Cape of Good Hope for Madagascar. Previously reported arrived Tamatave 12/77. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0423Z/20 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A.)

/ODENWALD .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - contd.

ODENWALD. (German) — Tokio Bay departure 18/8 same markings, my 1401/20/7. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0757Z/20.)

D'ARTAGNAN. (French) — Departure 19/8. Shanghai 20/8. (Saigon, 0932Z/20 to M. of W.T.)

America and West Indies.

GASLIGHT. — Admty. 1854B/26. British GASLIGHT not yet arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 0928R/20 to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. — Your 1305N/19. Concur. (C. in C.A.W.I. 10420/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

CAROLINE MOLLER. — Proposing she be employed in U.K. (C.in C.A.W.I. 10520/20, C.C.N.F. 2122Z/20.)

Bauxite Defence. — Question of lack of defence for Bauxite installations in British and Dutch Guianas is causing me concern. Danger would come from Brazil where Germans could organize a large force of civil aircraft. Suggest question of joint defences be discussed with U.S. Army. Loss by sabotage of Curacao or Aruba refineries would not cause nearly so much damage to war effort as loss of Bauxite Plant, which could not be replaced under 3 to 6 months. (C. in C.A.W.I. 11010/20 to B.A.D.)

ASCANIA. — Intend to sail ASCANIA from Bermuda to Trinidad 21/8 with draft for Goshawk. ASCANIA will return Halifax direct from Trinidad arriving about 1/9. In view of Admty.1212B/29/6 consider that absence of an A.M.C. escort for A.S.C. convoy from Sydney to Western R/V can be accepted. (C. in C.A.W.I. 11320/20 to Admty. R.A.3.)

/SURREY .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

SURREY.
"Q" Report.

My 1543Q/19. Admiralty reports QQQQ message cancelled. From SURREY's description suspicious vessel may have been British ship SOLARIUM. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1209Q/20 to C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Your 1543Q/19. U.S. Navy Dept. reported this QQQ and also intercepted cancellation with T.O.O. 1455/19. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1445Z/20 to C. in C.A.W.I.)
Your 1543Q/19. Please refer to A.M.1849B/1 re SURREY due Trinidad ? 21/8. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1602Z/20 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

RICHMOND.

Your 1514R/19. Request RICHMOND's destination be changed to Halifax reporting E.T.A. to C.O.A.C. Halifax. Cancel my 1253Z/19. (C.C.N.F. 1526Z/20 to B.A.R.M.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
T.C.12 B.

C.O.A.C's 1627Z/19. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA should arrive Halifax by 1600Z/24. She has only to -embark troops and requires no stores or cargo working. Hoped therefore that sailing date will be maintained. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1522Z/20 to Admty.)

U.S.Routeing.

Your 1555R/16, concur generally. Cdr.Wilson, British C.S.A., San Francisco, should also act as Liaison Officer. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1629Z/20 to B.A.D. Washington.)

REVENGE.
T.C.12 B.

Your 1101A/18. Is it intended that REVENGE should still escort T.C.12 B, vide your 1926A/12 ? (R.A.5, 1711P/20 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION.

Your 1214R/19. If arrangements cannot be made to transport aircraft, stores and personnel to Philadelphia or Bermuda, RESOLUTION will be ordered to Halifax instead of Bermuda and will work up from that port. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1756A/20 to B.A.R.M.)

ORBITA.
T.C.12 B.

Your 1627Z/19. ORBITA is not to sail in convoy T.C.12 B. T.C.12 B will then be constituted as a special fast convoy of S. of A. 16 knots. ORBITA may be included in H.X.147 if it is in fact a 10-knot convoy. If H.X.147 is constituted as a normal slow convoy, the number of troops in ORBITA must be limited to 300. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1806A/20 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/U.S. Forces .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.8.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies -contd.

U.S. Forces, Information. C. in C.A.W.I. 1233Q/11. Suggest that C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, and any other British or Canadian naval authorities concerned should be informed from Washington direct of movements of U.S. Naval Forces and of any contacts they may report. Navy Dept. would continue to inform Admiralty and should be responsible for initiation of all these signals, being assisted by B.A.D. operational staff officers. Signal to Admty. could include names of other authorities informed. If you approve we will try to get agreement of Navy Dept. (B.A.D. Washington, 1815R/20 to Admty.)

Atlantic Convoys. Naval Operations requests that routeing instructions for East and West bound North Atlantic Convoys be transmitted now to C.P.N.A.V. by the Admiralty. Direct routeing instructions to continue to Halifax is now in effect. This is in order that Navy Dept. may be informed and prepared for placing W.P.L.51 in full effect at some later date. (A.L.U.S.N.A. 1935/20 to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE. Your 1102/13. Arriving Jamaica a.m./23. Arriving Cape Henry 0600R/26. (FORMIDABLE, 2101Z/20 to C.in C.A.W.I.)

PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM. Your 1223R/20 (N.T.in W.D.) Intend to sail PRIMROSE 21/8 E.T.A. Charleston 1800R/26. Request information earliest date NASTURTIUM can be accepted. (? C.C.N.F. 2358Z/20 to B.A.R.M.)

Australia.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA. Reply to Admty. 1236/14 re A/A armament. (A.C.N.B. 1204Z/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

20.8.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

O.G.71. (ships torpedoed 19/8.)

Return to base at prudent limit of endurance. (C. in C.W.A., 1054A/20, to ST.ALBANS.) If condition of survivors necessitates it proceed at best speed to Gibraltar. (C. in C.W.A., 1110A/20 to HYDRANGEA.) E.T.A. Gibraltar 2000 A/22. 6 seriously injured and 3 non-cot cases, all survivors from BATH. Lieut. Haave R.N.N. died A.M./20 and was buried at sea. My position is 045° 00' 016° 27' (Weather.) HYDRANGEA, 1446A/20, to F.O.C.N.A.)

MACON (torpedoed 24/7.)

F.O.C.N.A's 2320/3. Ref. N.C.S.I.69. (A) MACON. (B) 24/7, 1941, 2230 G.M.T. 32° 48'N., 36° 12' W. (C) Left on bridge of ship. (D) Left in wireless cabin. (E) No. (F) Master does not think that vessel was boarded by enemy. (G) Master (H) All books including S-P., 02272 (10) (11) Left on ship as (C) and (D) MACON proceeding singly, sunk by one torpedo and gunfire from submarine possibly of ENRICO TAZZOLI class. Four dead. 25 unaccounted for, Master and 20 crew landed Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1934N/20 to Admty.)

### Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1451A/20.) Result of aircraft searches for suspected U-Boat East of Wick, nothing seen. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1810/20, to R.A.2.B.S.)

C.B.3057 para.9 (i) 1 (ii) Orange Yellow turning to green (iii) fire balls (iv) Surface (v) 225° (vi) 2 to 5 miles. Remarks my position 046° 58' N. 017° W. possible meaning: sighting or hydrophone effect of destroyer proceeding at 15 knots. GURKHA and LANCE altered course together towards fire balls. No A/S contact obtained, no attack materialised. R.D.F. contact of convoy fire on starboard bow one minute later at (?3000) yards. (GURKHA 0307A/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

Operation "Gauntlet". Force A. (NIGERIA, AURORA, ICARUS, ANTELOPE and ANTHONY) and EMPRESS OF CANADA sailed from Iceland (C) at 2100Z today.

Convoy "Dervish". Convoy "Dervish" left Iceland (C) at 1150 today.

The port of Hartlepool was reopened at 1553 today.

### British Air Operations.

An E-boat was attacked off Gravelines today by a Spitfire. Explosions resulted and it is presumed the magazine was hit.

### Enemy Air Operations.

It is reported that a F.W. aircraft has been observed to drop parachute mines ahead of a convoy.

Convoy E.C.65 reported being bombed at 2053A today in 52° 49' N. 2° 9' E. but was not damaged. Fighters shot down one enemy aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations.
P.W.14.

5 M.T.B's laid mines off the Belgian coast last night.

S.N.22 B.

AGAMEMNON left Port Z A. at 2150A to lay mines north west of Cape Wrath, screened by NEWARK.

RUBIS.

RUBIS today laid mines off the coast of Norway. (see 22/8, Home Commands).

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected last night in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated off Harwich and Seaham today.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Mincemeat"

S.O. Force H. in NELSON left Gibraltar at 2158A today with ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 5 destroyers.

South Atlantic.

French S.S. KROUMIR made S.O.S. at 0703 in the Gulf of Guinea.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

**Malta.** Luqa and Hal Far aerodromes were attacked by Italian aircraft at dawn today. Damage was very slight.

**O.23.** Netherlands S/M O23 reports that at 1000A/16 she attacked a convoy of 6 or more ships escorted by 4 destroyers and a flying boat in 39° 35' N. 12° 18' E. and probably secured 2 hits. About 100 depth charges were dropped on O.23 without damaging her.

**Corinth Canal.** It is believed the Canal will take 9 months to repair.

**Libya and Western Desert.** Operation "Treacle", 7th C.S. and destroyers returning from Tobruk were attacked by aircraft this morning. NIZAM was stopped by a near miss but was able to proceed later and all H.M. ships reached Alexandria.

Tobruk was bombed today, but no damage was caused.

**Suez Canal area.** There was an attack on Port Said and Ismailia in the early hours of this morning by about 6 enemy aircraft. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

**Cyprus.** 3 Italian aircraft raided Famagusta at 0911 today. S.S. EL FATH (Egyptian) was hit and damaged. Army, but no Naval casualties are reported.

East Indies.

**Force V.** EXETER, EMERALD, CERES and MAURITIUS have been diverted in readiness to deal with a suspicious vessel sighted by a Catalina today at anchor in 6° 57' N. 72° 55' E. ENTERPRISE leaves Colombo p.m. tomorrow to investigate if the ship is still at the anchorage. The vessel was eventually found to be Panamanian S.S. MASCOT, short of fuel; ENTERPRISE supplied fuel and returned to Colombo. Force V. was disbanded.

/REVENGE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - contd.

REVENGE. REVENGE is to join the East Indies station for duty with troop convoys.

U-Boat Campaign.

A loop crossing was reported at Scapa this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

A/A Cruisers — Administration of A/A cruisers operating with WN and EC convoys has been transferred to C. in C. Rosyth.
(R.A.D., 1213/21.)

P.A.C. Projectors. — My 1607A/14. Report number of vessels employed on ocean A/S escort which are not yet fitted with two P.A.C. projectors and for which supplies of projectors are not available at Bases.
(D.A/S.W., 1341A/21.)

4th and 106th M/L.F. — Your 2107/18. It is not intended that the 106th M.L.F. should relieve the 4th M.L.F. Both Flotillas are to remain under your command.
(D.D.O.D. C. 1526A/21, to A.C.I.C.)

### Movements.

D.S.10. — One S/M escorted by SENATEUR DUHAMEL proceeding to Clyde from southwards is likely to be met during dark hours. D.S.10 consisting of two transports unescorted sailed Clyde 1900/21 speed 11 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 1924A/21 to FURIOUS.)

ACHATES. — Your 1626/20. Sailed 1500 ACHATES in tow of tug ASSURANCE with tug LE LUTTEUR escorted by TARTAR.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1521A/21 to A.C.O.S.)

Convoy F.S.73. H.31. — Have lost touch with convoy. Am proceeding independently with S/M H.31 speed of advance 8 knots.
(T/B Z.5, 2045A/20 to Capt.S.6.)
Submarine H.31 now straggling 6 miles astern of F.S.73. Have instructed her and escort Z.5 into Humber together with number 87 JIM. E.T.A. 0200.
(? Origin, 2146A/21 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

PORPOISE. — Your 13450/19, and my 1724A/14. PORPOISE will not now be ready to sail for Mediterranean before about 21/9.
(F.O.S., 2314A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Net Laying. Departure TONBRIDGE and escorts, net laying vicinity Weybourne.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0625A/21.)

N.L.19. My 1004/20. N.L.19 postponed owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 0827A/21.)

Operation "Gauntlet". Arrived Force (A) and EMPRESS OF CANADA 0730.
(A.C.I.C. 0954/21 to V.A.2.)
Russian requests for information as to flight of Hurricanes from ARGUS to Voyengo.
(Britlistaf, Moscow, 1150/21 to Air Ministry.)
See Lion Copy.
Force 'A' and EMPRESS OF CANADA sailed 2100Z.
(A.C.I.C. 2132/21 to V.A.2.)
Following received from B.S.N.O. Murmansk.
Begins. Your 1554A/19, para.4. Consider most desirable not to withdraw or interfere with British or Soviet S/M patrols westward 33° E.
Request ARGUS keep North 75° N. until reaching 35° E., and East 34° E. while S. of 71° N.
S/M's will be ordered to keep west 34° E. for any period required. 2116C/20. Ends.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1233A/21 to V.A.2.)

Operation "Dervish". Your 1026A/20. Paras. A and B have already been provisionally arranged. Before I put request in para C to Soviet Naval Authorities please confirm that this restriction is to remain in force during the period "Dervish" is in White Sea (dates). I doubt if they would agree to this.
(Admiral Miles, 1048/21 to Adty.)
My 1508/20. Sailed 1130.
(A.C.I.C., 1229/21 to V.A.2.)
Your 1554A/19 para. 3. Destroyer will meet convoy at 0600 G.M.T./31 in 090° Cape Gorodetdrei Light 10 miles.
(Admiral Miles, 1621C/21.)
Your 1956A/19. Details of Beacons confirmed but see my 1823C/20.
(Ad. Miles, 1622C/21, to Admty.)
Following received from Admiral Miles. Begins:-
Your 1956/19. As convoy will presumably arrive off Cape Kanin on 31/8 Soviet Naval Authorities are reluctant to start beacons before 0700/ G.M.T./30. This seems to me reasonable and suggest we concur. 1823C/20 Ends.
2. Request your remarks.
(D.S.D., 1928A/21 to V.A.2.)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

Operation "Dervish". Contd.

Operations "Dervish" and "Strength" para. two. LONDON is detailed as cruiser of Force L.
(2) Intend to sail Force L to arrive Hvalfjord a.m. 31 proceeding thence as necessary to pass through position W and R/V with Force M in position R (074° 20' N. 012° 10' E.) at 0800/4.
(V.A.2., 1533A/21 to C.S.1.)

P.W.14.

Weather permitting P.W.14 will be carried out tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 1620A/21.)

Patrol.

M.Ls. 312 and 314 will patrol on latitude 050° 15' N. between 2° W. and 1° 15' W. from dark 21 to dawn 22 August, sailing from and returning to Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1703A/21 to H.Q.C.C.)

Operation "Follow".

SEALION reports operation "Follow" unsuccessful. Vessel not encountered.
(F.O.S., 2121A/21.)

Exercise "Leapfrog".

A.M. 1303A/14.
F.O.i/c. Greenock is to co-ordinate all requirements which affect the movements of ships mentioned in paras. 1 and 3.
Further arrangements.
5. Admiralty is to be kept informed weekly of state and disposition of ships concerned.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2252A/21.)

### British Air Activity.

Patrols.

FATE III being flown from 0800 to 2000 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0758/21.)
P R U. R/C of Norwegian Coast, Aalesund to Bergen, in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/21.)

Information for H.Q.B.C.

Ops. 182. August 21. Request that copies of any Portsmouth operations which affect aircraft of this Command are sent to the C. in C. H.Q.B.C. as well as to the Bomber Group concerned. Otherwise immediate co-operation may not be available and misunderstandings may arise. Also request that a copy of operation GRAB is forwarded to C. in C. H.Q.B.C.
(N.S.O. H.Q.B.C., 1120/21, to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/S.N.22B.....

MOST SECRET

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

S.N.22B. Your 1058A/20. Air escort will be provided tomorrow by Hudson aircraft from 18 Group from first light till return to harbour.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1900/21, to R.A.M.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Information. For Information. (A) JU.88 aircraft have been operating up to about 600 miles from Brest. These aircraft are capable of dive bombing. (B) There are indications that tactics of F.W. are now to shadow convoys rather than to attack, in order to assist U-Boat attacks, and that F.W. attacks, if carried out at all, are likely to be from a greater height than heretofore.
(C. in C. W.A., 1914A/21.)

Convoy E.C.63. Enemy A/C bombing convoy PADDLE. Position 52° 49' N. 2° 9' E.
(VORTIGERN, 2053A/21.)

Mining.

DALEWOOD (Mined 20/8) Arrived Humber in tow. Considerably damaged through enemy action.
(N.C.S.O. Grimsby, 0920/21.)

Forthcoming Operations. Adty. 1302A/20. Intend to utilise WELSHMAN and MANXMAN if they are available, in which case Hunts will not be required.
(R.A.M., 1043A/21.)

Firth of Forth. One mine suspected dropped in about 220° May Island Light 3.5 miles, 20/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1115/21.)

Mines dropped ahead of Convoy. Reported that a F.W. aircraft was observed to drop parachute mines ahead of a convoy at sea. Any further evidence of such actions by the enemy is to be reported by signal on return to harbour.
(C. in C.W.A., 1127A/21.)

Mining between Oland and German Area. Your 1603A/20. Yes. This was completed shortly after despatch of my 1815/June 26th. Ministry of Defence informed me on July 14th that it was probably some of these which caused sinking of three German transports off Oland.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1139/21.)

Seaham.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Seaham. At 0950/21 and 1036/21 detonated 2 magnetic mines. Details.
(P.M/S.O. North Shields, 1404/21.)

S.N.70A. Your 1134A/20. C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with SUFFOLK and VICTORIOUS will be carrying out an operation and will be in a position to cover S.N.70A against surface attack.
(F.O.2 H.F., 1529/21 to R.A.M.)
Departures WELLS and ST. MARY'S.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 1915/21.)

Harwich. At 0736/21 one Green Mine detonated by S.A. Gear. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1631A/21.)

S.N.22B. Departure AGAMEMNON.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 2150A/21.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified Vessel. My 1818/20. Aircraft reported vessel was yawl estimated 60 feet long, 5 men on deck. Tunny Rods out but no lines. Blue hull brown sails. Photograph was taken.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1704/21.)

Fishing craft. A/C K/53 reports sighted two derelict life boats waterlogged no markings visible, also two rafts, all one mile 150° from 61B Buoy. In position 53° N. 0° 50' E. sighted 5 fishing craft one of which No.963 was flying white rags from two poles. Craft had crew of three.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1814/21.)

Casualties and Defects.

NIGHT HAWK. (M/S Trawler) Arrival 0925/21, with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1004/21.)

PORTHMEOR (British, 449 tons) sunk. INDIAN STAR reports GLENDENE was in collision with PORTHMEOR who subsequently sank. Only survivor on board GLENDENE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1034/21.)

CHEVREUIL Your 2116A/19. CHEVREUIL delayed by defect. Anticipate ship ready to sail A.M./23.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1442/21.)

/Hartlepool.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Hartlepool. Negative my 1722/6. My 1655/19. Port of Hartlepool is now open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1553/21.)

MARJORIE M. HASTIE. Lifted today and berthed near Middleton Sands clear of Channel. Propose float into Hartlepool P.M./22.
(Smith, West Hartlepool, 1732/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.C. Convoys. Heavy ship close escort not required. See America and West Indies. (1353/21.)

S.L.82 Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy S.L.82.
(C. in C. W.A., 1236A/21, to Capt. Metcalfe.)

Firing at Aircraft. Admty. message "G.N." Merchant ships in Atlantic when north of Equator and Westward of 36° W. are not to open fire on aircraft unless actually attacked. Within this area U.S.A. aircraft are likely to be encountered, who have, however, been warned not to approach close to merchant vessels.
(D.T.D., 1840Z/21 to G.B.M.S. all areas.)

ERODONA. My 1908/14. Intend sailing ERODONA in tow of tug SALVONIA shortly. Request destination. She will have approx. 400 tons of her original cargo of petrol as necessary ballast. Ship cannot be degaussed.
(A.C.I.C., 1844/21, to Admty.)

Lights. To avoid difficulty and danger to M/Ls. meeting convoys the Commodore's ship and the leading ship of the Loch Ewe portion should burn dimmed navigation lights when approaching the splitting point off Tiumpan Head. Request Commodores may be instructed accordingly.
(D.T.D., 1845A/21 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, etc.)

North American Convoys. Ref. A.M. 1400A/13 and 1704A/16.
Concur with proposals contained in C. in C. W.A. 1544A/15.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2257A/21 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| ITA intercepted. | Have sent Spanish ITA to Gibraltar under armed guard. Bound Huelva to Passajes with Pyrites. She will arrive about 1730/21. (SCOTTISH, 0510A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| French Shipping. | For M.E.W. Passings 20/8, French Westward, ARCTURUS, LIEUT. DE LA TOUR, CARIMARE, all full. (V.A.C.N.A., 0917A/21, to Admty.) |
| 0.23, report of patrol. Convoy attacked. 100 D/C's. dropped. | Netherlands S/M 0.23 attacked convoy 6 or more ships escorted by 4 destroyers and flying boat at 1000A/16 in 039° 35' 012° 18' course 212°. Attack made at long range and 2 hits seemed probable, confirmation however cannot be obtained here. 0.23 subsequently had about 100 depth charges dropped on her but none close enough to damage submarine in any way. (ii) Convoy 2 ships escorted by 1 Torpedo boat sighted east-bound in 038° 08' 014° 20' at 1500A/11. (F.O.C.N.A., 1310A/21 to C. in C. Med.) |
| O.G.71. | Departure VIDETTE to R/V O.G.71 at 0700/23. (? F.O.C.N.A. 1802A/21.) |
| OBSTINE. | French Tug OBSTINE sailed for high seas from Lisbon 1800/21 destination believed Casablanca. (N.A. Lisbon, 1810/21 to S.O.I. Gib.) |
| EUGENIO C. (Italian) | Arrived Castro Urdialles 21/8 to load iron ore. She is expected to leave for France evening 22/8. (Consul, Bilbao, 1824/21 to Admty., etc.) |
| BESSEL (German) | 1878 tons, reported sailed from Vigo night 20/21, 11 knots, Cruiser stern, high bridge, close funnels. (F.O.C.N.A., 2030A/21 to N.A. Stn.) |
| Force H. | S.O. Departure/Force H in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, NESTOR, FURY, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, ENCOUNTER. (F.O.C.N.A., 2158A/21 to Admty.) |
| BUTTERFLY (Italian) | Danish broadcast today reports arrived in "a friendly-disposed neutral country". Presumed occupied France is intended. (Ship left Pernambuco 28/6.) (D.S.N.E. 715.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

KROUMIR (French) S.O.S. — Following has been read S.O.S. de KROUMIR en FAU lat. 4.50 Long. 4.30.
(Gibraltar W/T, No. T.O.O. T.O.R.0703/21.)

GASCON. — Your 1701N/20. E.T.A. St. Helena 1600/21 for fuel. Request speed destination and time of sailing of GASCON.
(ALBATROSS, 0913Z/21, to C. in C.S.A.)

W.S.10. — My 1615/19? F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1247/20. Intend REINA DEL PACIFICO shall also proceed to Capetown.
(C. in C.S.A., 1047N/21 to Admty.)

Suspected Raider 18/8. — Ship resembling raider EIN W.I.R. 64 raider supplement, but without prominent Samson posts, spoke to U.S. ships in 30° S.12° 35' E., p.m./18 and refused name when asked. D/F bearings at 0037Z/20 indicated enemy surface units within 150 miles position 25° S. 7° E.
(C. IN C.S.A., 1511N/21 to S.A.Stn.)

EAGLE. — Regret it is necessary to withdraw EAGLE temporarily from your Station. Request you will sail her as soon as practicable for U.K.
A.C.N.S.(F) 1547A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

REVENGE W.S.10X. — My 2336/1, para. 3 (b) and (c). REVENGE should arrive Freetown 31/8, and should be used for onward escort for W.S.10X whose sailing may be delayed till 1/9. REVENGE may continue as escort as far as required by C. in C. E.I.
(A.C.N.S.(F)1548A/21, to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I.)

CILICIA. — Request your intentions concerning six monthly docking of CILICIA due this month.
(D.O.D.(F) 1651A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

C.F.2. — Convoy sailing telegram. (1) CF2 (2) 1630Z/21 (6) QUEEN OF BERMUDA (9) DURBAN CASTLE, NIEUW ZEELAND, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, SOBIESKI.
(N.C.S.O.Durban 1726Z/21 to Admty.)

/Falklands.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic - Contd.

**Falklands.** Re Defences.
(M.A., Buenos Aires, T.H.I. 1930/21 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.
M.A. Buenos Aires telegram 062/21 (T.O.O. 1930/21 intended) addressed W.O. who are asked to repeat to Admty., was sent after consulting Ambassador and N.A. I urge it may be (? treated) as immediate and important.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 2035Z/21 to Admty.)

**B/D Vessels.** Your 1311N/12. Request JENNET, PUNNET, and RENNET be sailed as early as practicable for Durban. Interference in boom work pending arrival of reliefs vide my 1853A/19 must be accepted. Decision as to ultimate destination of these vessels will be dependent upon conditions prevailing when they reach Durban.
(D.B.D., 2027A/21 to C. in C.S.A.)

**W.S.10.** Convoy Sailing Telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2133/21 to Admty.)

**MALAYA report.** Your 2235/18. MALAYA's report of 23/3 received. Report of Commodore of Convoy lost in transit from Halifax but narrative compiled from Commodore's rough notes has been received.
(Head of M. 2150A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

### Mediterranean.

**Vichy Ships seized by Free French.** Following from Gen. Spears addressed Mideast for Embassy for Minister of State. Pass to Spears Mission London. Ref. Troopers 82655 (20 M.M.) of 7/8 (not to Admty.) to Mideast. This telegram was in answer to my ELS 250 on the subject of seizure by Free French ships of Vichy ships. De Gaulle has given me the following note on the subject. 'We do not consider a French ship seized by us as a prize. We have been compelled up to the present to allow the British authorities to seize certain French ships and to consent to their case being adjudicated by British prize courts. This is only a provisional measure until we are in a position to act otherwise without hindering the employment of these ships for war purposes.' (Ends.)
(C. in C. M.E., 0900/21, to W.O.)

/Corinth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Corinth Canal. From Turkish source just returned from Athens graded B.2. Informed circles there believe Corinth Canal damaged in recent raid will take 9 months to repair.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 0959/21, to S.O.I. Med.)

Alexandria Suez Raids. Bombs and mines dropped Alexandria area in raid night 19/20, of which most fell in sea or Lake Mariut. No damage or casualties. Night 20/21, about 6 enemy aircraft operated over Suez Canal zone. Bombs dropped at Port Said and Ismailia. No damage or casualties reported.

Benghazi bombed. Night 19/20, 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi bombs falling near telephone exchange and power station. Damage unobserved.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1016/21.)

Enemy Convoy. 5 Destroyers 3 17-knot Merchant Ships expected to leave Tripoli (Libya) 1700/21. Patrol in 033° 07' 013° 07'.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1231B/21 to UNIQUE.)

PORPOISE, RORQUAL. Your 1345C/19. PORPOISE should arrive Gibraltar about 23/9. RORQUAL can be taken in hand at Troon mid-November.
(F.O.S., 1244A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

TURBO (attacked 20/8.) Attacked by 2 Italian planes one torpedo hit amidships close to pump room. Ship unable to pump and in danger of breaking in half. Intend to discharge British SERGEANT to shore tanks and transfer TURBO's cargo to her.
(N.O.I/C. Port Said, 1308C/21.)

Famagusta Raid. Famagusta raided by 3 Savoias at 0911. About 30 seconds warning. Visibility difficult. Ship guns opened. Shore guns unable to owing to dust from bombs. 3 bombs in sea N. of harbour and one S. EL FATH hit on forecastle. About 5 bombs in A.A. gun positions and town to Southward of harbour. Some army and civilian casualties. EL FATH could probably be towed away stern first, appears to have no under-water damage.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1340C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy Convoy.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - Contd.

**Enemy Convoy.** Three 17-knot ships 5 destroyers expected to pass 037° 40' 012° 04' at 1200/22, and Cape San Vito (Sicily) about 1445/22. Endeavour to intercept in the latter vicinity from whence convoy proceeds to Naples.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1340B/21 to UPHOLDER.)

**Syria.** Re control of ports.
(C. in C. Med., 13530/21 to Admty.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

**Malta.** Re defence of Gozo Island. Chiefs of Staff No. 161.
(1st S.L., 1354A/21 to Govr. Malta.)
See Lion Copy.

**Vichy Convoy.** 3 ships, passes 041° 35' 010° 00' about 0001/21 Messina about 1000 Malta and 037° 03' 016° 46' 2000/22 and is not to be attacked.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1415B/21 to UTMOST, URSULA, TRIUMPH.)

**Malta Raid.** Night 20/21, 3 Macchi 200 with 9 Macchi 200's as high cover attempted dawn low flying attack Luqa and Hal Far one Cookhouse hit. No other damage no casualties.

**Enemy Sloop attacked.** 1 Hurricane attacked sloop off Sicily with cannon. Pieces seen flying off bridge and super structure.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/21.)

**STUART.** Admty. 2330/19. Intend STUART to leave Alexandria P.M./22 to arrive Aden 27th. C. in C. E.I. is requested order onward passage.
(C. in C. Med., 16310/21, to Admty.)

**Suez Raid.** Ref. C.A.F.O. 587.
(A) 21/8, calm clear. (B) High level attack, 6 E A on Port Said 0324 - 0458, 8 - 10 flares, waning moon. (C) H.E. bombs and incendiaries. (D) 16 - 20 bombs size unknown. (E) No naval damage or casualties. Considerable civilian damage, casualties. (F) A/A active and fighter patrol, no interception. (K) Canal open, traffic unaffected.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 18010/21 to Admty., etc.)

/ALBARO.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBARO (Italian) — Arrived Istanbul from Piraeus bound for Varna. Partly laden, cargo stated to be about 2000 tons fuel oil from previous voyage which destined Trieste remained undischarged owing blockade Corinth canal. Vessel detained here by German authority.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1806C/21 to S.O.I. Med.)

Blue Warnings. — The system of blue warnings to ships at sea will be instituted on Mediterranean Station, but at present warnings will only be made to units and not to small craft. A.F.O.2/41 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 1846C/21 to Med. Stn.)

TORBAY, TALISMAN. — Your 1558C/21 understood. TALISMAN leaves Alexandria 2000C/21 for 033° 25' 025° 31' direct. 15th C.S. and destroyers leave Alexandria 0900C/22.
(Capt. S.1., 1905C/2 to TORBAY.)

Malta. — Oil requirements by any submarine coming to Malta.
(Govr. Malta, 2015/21 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

UNIQUE, P.32, P.33. — If safe to do so report if, when and where S.S.T. communication was established with P.32 or P.33.
(S.O.S. Malta, 2028B/21, to UNIQUE.)

Enemy Convoy. — Colonia 0600C/22, eastbound convoy and escort leaving 032° 10' 015° 23' following inshore route to opposite point on Eastern shore gulf of Sirte.
(Capt. S.1., 2155C/21 to TETRARCH.)

THRASHER, PERSEUS. — Leave patrol P.M./23 for 035° 40' 024° 10' thence within 15 miles north coast of Crete through Kaso Straits thence direct to arrive Alexandria 0530C/27. PERSEUS expects to pass through Kaso 23/8 thence E. and Northward Anaphi Island and northward 036° 00' arriving your area 24th. Considerable shipping reported using Suda Bay.
(Capt. S.1., 2220C/21 to THRASHER.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report 124. (? Canal) Area. S.S. DUNERA with prisoners of war reported torpedoed by A/C off the Brothers, 250 miles S. of Suez, not yet confirmed, no details. COVENTRY sailed from Suez for protection anchorage F, CARLISLE remaining Suez. Oiler TURBO has reached (? Port Said) under own power.
2. Syria. French ships of Convoy B. have reached Beirut.
4. Western Desert. 7th C.S. and destroyers returned from Tobruk attacked by A/C a.m./21. NIZAM stopped by near miss but later able to proceed and all H.M.Ships have now reached Alexandria. Operation "Treacle" and normal supply to Tobruk continuing.
(C. in C. Med., 2319C/21 to Admty.)

COMEDIAN. My 1625/31. COMEDIAN required for further voyage Massawa Suez. Vessel to be sailed accordingly. Expect to release vessel about 10/9.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 2335/21, to D.S.T.O. Suez.)

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Indian Ocean. | Proposals in event of war with Japan. (C. in C.E.I., 05422/21 to Admty.) See Operations Volume. |
| ADRIA. | Your 1147/18 to C. in C.E.I. Details. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0554Z/21 to C. in C. Med.) |
| COMPIEGNE Importance of cargo. | Please see Governor of Mauritius Telegram 438 to S. of S. for Colonies. (C.in C.E.I. 1034Z/21 to Admty.) |
| Convoy W.S.10. | Your 1916/7.and 2127/9. Request disposal instructions for BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE, STRATHALLAN, Wadi Haifa R. Palestine W. on completion discharge Bombay. (S.S.T.O. India 1150Z/21 to Admty.) |
| Suspicious Ship, Search by Force V. | Suspicious A/C was reported by EXETER in 007° 40' N. 074° 20' at 1110Z/20 and subsequent search by Catalina FVS revealed suspicious vessel at anchor in 006° 57' N. 072° 55'. Ship was still at anchor when Catalina left patrol at 1230Z/21. (2) EXETER, EMERALD, CERES and MAURITIUS have been diverted in readiness for further report from search by Catalina FVS early 22/8. Catalina FVX now at Diego Garcia. Catalinas refuel Mahe night 21/22. (3) ENTERPRISE leaves Colombo p.m./22 to investigate ship if still at anchorage a.m./22. (4) Ships to be known as force V. (C. in C.E.I. 1434Z/21 to Admty.) |
| GIORGIOS AVEROFF. | Departure 1530Z/21. E.T.A. Aden 0600Z/25. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1532Z/21 to Admty.) |
| ILEX. | My 1727B/17 and 1845B/20/7 and C. in C.E.I. 1354Z/26/7. ILEX will now be taken in hand in U.S.A. for repairs and refit arriving about end October. C. in C.E.I. is requested to sail ship to the Cape as soon as weather permits. C. in C.S.A. is requested to route her onwards, avoiding neutral ports and informing B.A.R.M. of her E.T.A. at repair port. (D.O.D.(F) 1650A/21 to C. in C.E.I.) |

/French .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

French Somaliland, Intelligence. Three French N.C.O's who boarded HINDUSTAN off Tajura report :
(1) Submarine arrived at Djibouti 15/7 and left 21/7. Captain had orders to search for and sink SAVORGNAN DE BRAZA.
(2) Three masted Schooner with (?75) tons of food arrived from Madagascar on 2/7 and is still there. This is now confirmed by air (?reconnaissance). Schooner was escorted by submarine but was lost.
(3) Smuggling of food in dhows for European consumption is confirmed.
(4) Food in Djibouti is short but not desperately so. Food supplies which come in are not issued but hoarded against a long blockade. Morale is low.
(5) There are about 2000 European troops and 5000 Senegalese troops in French Somaliland. Senegalese troops are given preferential treatment to keep them quiet. (S.N.O. Red Sea 1709Z/21.)

Personnel in Unescorted ships. Your 0628Z/21/7. In cases where adherence to limitation of 100 mercantile marine seamen would entail splitting a relief crew, numbers may be embarked up to 200 in one unescorted ship. Admty. approval should however be obtained on each occasion. (4th S.L. 1743A/21 to C. in C.E.I.)

Kilindini. Your 1400Z/8. Colonial Office informed that proposal has Admiralty support. (Head of M. 2153A/21 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.

MUNSTERLAND. (German) Yokohama arrival 19/8. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0241Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

/SCARAB .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

SCARAB, SEAMEW. C. in C.E.I's 0802/18. I could spare SCARAB from Singapore and would re-arm her with 6-inch guns. SEAMEW though of value to defence of Hong Kong could be spared if required. (C. in C. China, 0311Z/21 to Admty.)

ALBERT SARRAUT. (French) Arrived 20/8. (Saigon 1128Z/21.)

Bases. Review of defences in Eastern theatre. Proposals. (D. of P. 1939A/21 (amended 1041A/23) 1958A/21 to C. in C. China, C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. Arrived. (Shanghai 2352Z/21.)

America and West Indies.

RICHMOND CASTLE. My 1520Z/18 - Following from New York (begins) - RICHMOND CASTLE to remain Halifax until further instructions from Midship. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0345Z/21 to C.O.A.C.)

REVENGE. Leave Bermuda 1830Q/21 and proceed to Freetown so as to arrive a.m./31. Route. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0922Q/21 to REVENGE.)

FORTH. Admty. 1913A/18. Before sailing for U.K. following should be transferred to B.A.R.M. (F.O.S. 1019A/21 to FORTH.)

REVENGE. Request you will sail REVENGE forthwith to Freetown so as to arrive if possible on 31/8. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1033A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Your 1033A/21. I am not aware of service on which REVENGE may be employed, but ship reports that only 15-inch shell on board is armour piercing capped. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0921Q/21 to Admty.) REVENGE is to join East Indies Station being employed with Troop Convoys on the East Coast of Africa until further orders. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1627A/21 to C.in C.A.W.I. etc.)

/TRUANT .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TRUANT. Your 2205A/11. TRUANT sails from New London Connecticut on 1/9 for St. Johns, N.F. Programme. (B.A.R.M. 1042R/21 to Admty.etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Excess fuel consumption Kingston to Panama has made it necessary to refuel Balboa on 17th. Considered 2 days in San Diego will be required for defects. Propose to arrive 25th evening leaving 27th onward programme unchanged. My position is 016° 08' N. 098° 37' W. (LE TRIOMPHANT 1129OR/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Naval authorities Acapulco declare held only existing fuel have stated stocks did not allow for supplying LE TRIOMPHANT. Supply arranged St. Miguel 22/8. HOWE sailed from Acapulco 2000Z/21. Programme laid down in my 1029OR/21 (?1129OR/21) unchanged. (LE TRIOMPHANT 2030R/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

ASCANIA. Bermuda departure ASCANIA in accordance with my 1212Q/20. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1203Q/21 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION. Your 2335A/14. RESOLUTION requires following days after completion of refit before arriving Bermuda, (total 11). Working up programme 7 days. (B.A.R.M.1212R/21 to Admty.)

NASTURTIUM, PRIMROSE. Your 2358Z/20. NASTURTIUM can be received with PRIMROSE on 26/8. Please confirm. See my 1558R/19 regarding T. of A. and position for meeting Pilot. (B.A.R.M. 1226R/21 to C.C.N.F.)

T.C. Convoys, Heavy Escorts. In present circumstances, not considered heavy ship close escort is required for T.C. Convoys. Each T.C. Convoy will in future be judged on its merits. Therefore not now intended that REVENGE shall afford escort to convoy T.C.12 (B) Rear Admi. Nelles is aware of situation and concurs. (1st S.L. 1353A/21 to C.O.A.C.Halifax R.A.3.)

/T.C.12 B. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.8.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies -contd.

T.C.12 B. My 1823Z/11. Escort for T.C.12 B. will consist of HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, ST.LAURENCE, ASSINIBOINE, SAGUENAY, RIPLEY. SAGUENAY and RIPLEY will join convoy off St. Johns, N.F. and RICHMOND and ANNAPOLIS will provide local escort from Halifax to position off St. Johns, N.F. (C.C.N.F.1451Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.)

RODNEY. On completion of working up RODNEY is required to sail for Gibraltar. Working up period at Bermuda is to be adjusted to ensure that RODNEY arrives at Gibraltar by (date). Intended, depending on circumstances obtaining at the time, that NELSON, on relief by RODNEY, should sail for the Clyde. (1st S.L. 1524A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

A.M.C's. Approved for two A.M.C's to be sailed for U.K. to give leave. Ships should proceed at first suitable opportunity and arrangements should be made for them to carry their full complement of passengers. (V.C.N.S. 1541A/21 to R.A.3.)

CORSAIR. My 1602R/19. Request CORSAIR may arrive 27/8. (B.A.R.M. 1648R/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

ILEX. Your 1646R/19. Approx. 28/10 vide my 2111A/18. (D.O.D.(F) 1652A/21 to B.A.R.M.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOL. N.C.S.O. Halifax 1514/14. Movement arrangements of personnel ex WARWICK CASTLE. (D.S.T.1759A/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic convoys. Proposed method for promulgating routes. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1934A/21 to O.P.N.A.V., C.O.A.C. Halifax) See Lion Copy.

St. John's D.F. H.M. and H.M. Canadian ships approaching St.Johns, N.F. may obtain D/F Bearings from non naval station at St. Johns N.F. and Cape Race using following procedure. (C. in C.W.A. 2343A/21 to W. App. G.M. 172N.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

| | |
|---|---|
| U.S.12 A.<br>U.S.12 B.<br>U.S.13. | Your 1432A/18. Intentions and numbers. (A.C.N.B.1350Z/21 to D. of S.T.) See Lion Copy. |
| R.A.F. Personnel, transport. | Your 0344Z/18. Numbers for CAPETOWN CASTLE, AKAROA, etc. (N.Z.N.B. 0947M/21 to D. of S.T.) |
| U.S.12 A. at Suez. | Your 1523A/18. Prefer alternative (A). (N.Z.N.B. 1530M/21 to D. of S.T.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.8.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0647 G.M.T. — D/F at 0647 G.M.T. U Boat in 43° 30' N., 14° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C.1056A/21 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA, WIVERN, etc.

2105/19. — Master of motor vessel CARDITA, rear ship of 2nd. column in W.N.69, reports "AT 2105/19/8 in position ½ mile 155° (true) from No. 35 buoy, a periscope, bearing red 110° distant about 700 yards, was sighted twice by naval gunner and others. A report by lamp was immediately sent to escort."
(N.C.S.O., Methil, 1123/21, to Admty.)

1035Z. — D/F at 1035Z/21, position of U-boat approx., 43° 30' N., 15° 30' W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1244A/21 to LEITH, LANCE, GURKHA, WIVERN.
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/21.)

1325Z. — S/M sighted by A/C 059° 59' N., 013° 44' W., at 1325Z.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1732Z/21.)

Scapa. — Loop crossing at 2037 outside Eastern entrances. Precautions being taken.
(A.C.O.S. 2211A/21.)

2141Z. — D/F at 2141Z/21, position of U/Boat, probably homeward bound, was 47° N., - 48° 30' N. 7° W. - 8° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2357A/21.)

Submarines Attacked.

By ALBERNI 17/8. — ALBERNI reports attacking contact in 56.44 N., 43.50 W., at 0418 G.M.T./17. Ten charge pattern dropped 14 minutes after sighting submerging object resembling U-boat. Pattern exploded at 100 and 225 feet after which contact was not regained. Subsequently oil patch covering approx., square mile observed with oil still rising. On arrival of ALBERNI and investigation of report consider that contact attacked was U-boat and in view of large oil patch, this was seriously damaged if not destroyed.
(Capt.D,N.F., 1453Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.L. patrol. — Two M.L's from Portsmouth patrolled from dark yesterday to dawn today on lat. 50° 15' N. between 2° 0' W. and 1° 15' W. They were unsuccessfully shelled by Gris Nez Battery.

RUBIS. — At 0100A to-day French minelaying S/M RUBIS, which was ordered to attack two 4000 ton Finnish ships sighted off Aalesund on 19/8 reported that she had torpedoed one of them. The resulting explosions seriously damaged RUBIS who is unable to dive in 58° 16' N. 4° 48' E. LIVELY, LIGHTNING and CURACOA were ordered to assist her, and fighter A/C escort was provided. Later RUBIS signalled to an aircraft that she required a tow. WOLFHOUND and a rescue tug and other vessels were ordered to assist. RUBIS eventually reached Dundee on 25/8 under her own power, escorted by WOLFHOUND. She completed part of her minelaying operation yesterday.

Enemy Air Operations.

LEICESTER CITY (A/S Trawler) was unsuccessfully attacked near the Faeroes at 1810B to-day.

Convoy F.N.8 called for help at 2042 today in 53° 5' N. 1° 30' E.

A/B Netlayer TONBRIDGE was bombed and sunk this afternoon off Scroby Elbow Buoy whilst returning from netlaying.

M.G.B. 70 was slightly damaged by air attack whilst carrying out after-repair trials east of Corton at 1626 today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation P.W.14. — M.T.B's from Dover carried out a mining operation last night.

Q.Z.S. 211. — Liverpool was closed today.

Mines were detonated off North Shields and in the Bristol Channel.

Mediterranean.

Swordfish attack on Convoy. — 7 Swordfish sent off as a striking force to attack a convoy of 3 large merchant vessels with considerable destroyer escort, located the convoy at night in bad weather and fired torpedoes at two of the destroyers. No hits are claimed.

M.S. DURHAM. — DURHAM (10,893 tons) under Government charter was damaged by a mine, early this morning, west of Pantellaria but reached Gibraltar safely on 24/8.

Libya and Western Desert. — Last night, the heaviest air attack of the war was made on Tripoli by 16 Wellingtons. Considerable damage is reported to have been done to the shipping in the harbour and to harbour installations. Photographs taken subsequently showed one merchant ship sunk at the south mole. 1 Wellington bombed Derna port last night. Tobruk was bombed today, but no serious damage was caused.

The Italians are believed to be contemplating an operation, probably minelaying within a radius of 28 miles of 32.07 N., 20.04 E., (Gulf of Sidra, W. of Benghazi) 4 gunboats are being sent there for A/S work.

/Alexandria.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Mediterranean.-Contd.

**Alexandria.** There was an air raid on Alexandria early this morning by about 7 A/C. Bombs fell mainly in the sea, but Karmons power station was slightly damaged.

### America and West Indies.

**S.S. KOTA NOPAN sunk 17/8 by raider.** ORION has learnt that S.S. KOTA NOPAN (Dutch) was sunk off Galapagos Islands on 17/8, by a raider. C. in C. A.W.I. has instructed ORION to examine Galapagos Islands and provide cover for S.S. KAIKOURI (which left Balboa 0705 today) before continuing her passage to San Diego.

### U-Boat Campaign.

**O.G.71.** GURKHA reported at 0001A to-day that Convoy O.G. 71 was being shadowed by 6 U-boats and aircraft west of Spain. She was conducting a diversion to attract them to the North. W/T traffic about noon suggested that there were up to 9 U-boats in the general neighbourhood of the convoy. At 2100Z GURKHA reported that a ship had been torpedoed. Another ship was reported torpedoed at 2230 in 40° 43' N. 11° 39' W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1941.
Friday

## HOME COMMANDS

### Policy

**Icelandic Convoys.**

As U.S. Navy destroyers are now escorting Icelandic (word omitted? Convoys) to and from U.S.A. could arrangements be made by which British ships for U.S. or Canada might be included in such convoys which usually consist of one small vessel. This might frequently save vessels the necessity of being retained to await O.N. convoys. (A.C.I.C. 1823/22 to Admty.)

**Polish personnel for U.K.**

1. Chiefs of Staff have directed that as many Polish Service personnel as possible be sent to U.K. on ship now on way to Archangel in following order of priority.
Normal accommodation of troopship 800 could be probably considerably increased.
2. Foreign Office will urge Polish Government to arrange with Soviet Government. (War Office, 2050/22 to Mil. Mission, Moscow)

### Co-operation with Russia

**Supply of British Equipment.**

Please confirm that following A/A Equipment is being sent out with Convoy. Will it be accompanied by relative Personnel.
(No.30 Mil. Mission, Moscow 1115/22 to War Office) See Operations Volume

### Movements

**FURIOUS**

On completion of her next duty FURIOUS is to proceed to U.S.A. to refit.
2. E.T.A. in U.S.A. is second week in October. FURIOUS should proceed from Gibraltar to Bermuda to fuel, thence to Jamaica to disembark aircraft. Then to refitting port. (A.C.N.S. H. 1550A/22 to FURIOUS)

**A.F.D. IV**

Sail 2 minelayers for Fishguard. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them as necessary to R/V with others at L and act as additional escort as far as position C in QZS 259, thence to Holyhead. (C. in C. W.A. 1016A/22 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

/In view.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1941.
Friday

## HOME COMMANDS

### Movements

A.F.D. IV Contd.

In view of your arrival off Milford Haven during dark hours, oropesa trawler from Milford Haven will meet you at approx. 1900 today. Direct BUSHWOOD and ANDELLE to return Swansea when Q.Z.S. 242 is entered. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1044A/22 to POZARICA)

H. 31.

Intend to sail H.31 with escort Z.5. to join F.S. 74 at H.3. buoy at 1900 today. (F.O.Humber, 1156A/22)

ARETHUSA

Proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 0330/24 to Tyne. (V.A. 2. 1305A/22 to ARETHUSA)

MALAYA

Intend to sail MALAYA for Scapa A.M./27. Request Destroyer Escort. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1932/22 to V.A.2)

### Operations

Finnish 4000 ton M/V torpedoed.

Your 2149A/19 (ordering RUBIS to attack ships mentioned in 2002A/19) One torpedoed. (RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.) See Casualties.

Operation "Gauntlet"

Following received from S.O.Force A. Begins: Request arrangements may be made for following lights to be exhibited during darkness 28/29 Aug. MOunt Sazonova, Cape Orlov Terski, Veshnyak Island. 1221/19 Ends. (D.O.D. H. 1122A/22 to Ad, Miles.)

A.M. 1026A/20 and A.M. 1715A/19. EMPRESS OF CANADA escorted by NIGERIA and three destroyers E.T.A. position DD 69° N., 43° E at 1600A/28 and at North Dvina Light Vessel at 0800A/29.
2. Course of approach to position DD is 177°
3. Destroyers will require fuel at Archangel.
4. Force will leave p.m/30. (A.C.N.S. H. 1549A/22)

Your 1233A/21. ARGUS is routed in accordance with S.B.N.O. Murmansk's request. Your 1233A/21 has been passed to F.O.C. 1st C.S. (V.A. 2 1635A/22 to Admty.)

Operation F.V.A..

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation F.V.A. One.

Operation F.V.A. One, para two. Intend to proceed West of Sulisker and West of Faeroes. (C.S. 1. 1133A/22 to V.A. 2.)

Operation "Dervish"

A.M. 1026A/20. Following received from Admiral Miles (Repeats Ad. Miles 1048/21)
2. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 1404A/22 to V.A. 2.)
Your 1404A/22. It had not been appreciated that return of convoy would be so long delayed. Request restriction may remain in force until 8/9 when operation "Strength" will be completed and forces clear of area. (V.A. 2. 1901A/22 to Admty.)

Operation off Berck

Three M.T.B's leave Dover at 2200 to operate between Berck Buoy and Fecamp leaving area at 0300. Route via "D" buoy each way. (V.A. Dover 1614A/22)

Exercise "Leapfrog"

Admiralty 2252A/21 does not deal with administration of naval personnel embarked. Consider that one authority should be responsible for these and that administrative position should be made clear. If S.N.O.L. is to be this authority, request (a) Staff of N.O.I.C. designated to be appointed Quebec and be on staff S.N.O.L. for administration.
(b) N.O. in C's executive officer to have disciplinary authority over ratings embarked. (Commodore Warren, S.N.O.L. 1748/22 to Admty.)

M.L. Patrol shelled.

S.O. of M.L's on patrol last night in about 358° Gris Nez 10 miles reports having been shelled at 0110/22 eight rounds and 0250/22 two rounds. Nearest round covered M.L. with spray and furthest was 400 yards distant. Gun flash observed in direction of Gris Nez. On each occasion M.L's had been running on a steady course for some time.
(V.A. Dover, 1812A/22.)

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## HOME COMMANDS

### British Air Activity

**Ijmuiden bombed.**

Night 20/21. All operations were cancelled owing to weather. On day 21/8 A/C attacked the iron and steel works at Ijmuiden from a low level, many direct hits being obtained.
Night 21/22. All operations cancelled owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0123/22)

**Information**

Your 1120/21 Ops. 182. This will be done in future. All copies of operation orders for "Grab" have now been recalled. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1033A/22 to H.Q.B.C.)

**Patrols.**

Patrol of area - Orkneys 01° 40' W., 59° 30' N., 58° 40' N. - in operation 1100/22 until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1054/22)
P.R.U. Stavanger - Bergen on operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1208/22)
Cancel my 1054/22. A/S Patrol of exercise area in operation till first light/23. (C. in C. Rosyth 1500/22 to V.A. 2.)

**RUBIS Escort.**

Escort of 2 Blenheim fighters being maintained in vicinity of RUBIS throughout daylight. Additional escort of 2 Beaufighters is being sent now. (C. in C. Rosyth 1116/22)

**Lancaster A/C camouflage.**

My 1745/20. Lancaster 1 aircraft now flying vary from silhouette for experimental aircraft 124 as follows. (Air Ministry 1210/22)

**AUDACITY**

Your 2157A/14/8. Concur that full complement of fighter aircraft only should be carried initially. (5th S.L. 1227A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

**Archangel to U.K. Air Service.**

Your AIR 462/21/8. Arrangements, communications, etc., Archangel to Iceland. (Air Ministry 1740/22 and 1800/22 to Britlistaf, Moscow.)

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## HOME COMMANDS

### Enemy Air Activity

| | |
|---|---|
| TONBRIDGE (A/B Netlayer) Sunk. | TONBRIDGE hit in engine room by bomb. Sunk in six minutes. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1644A/22) Position. 2 cables 200° from Scroby Elbow Buoy. About 52°37' 12" N., 1° 46' 3" E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1844A/22 and 1905A/22) |
| LEICESTER CITY (A/S Trawler) attacked. | Am being attacked by enemy aircraft. Position indecipherable. (LEICESTER CITY 1810B/22) Cancel previous message A/C driven off. No casualties or damage. (LEICESTER CITY 1835/22) |
| M.G.B. 70. | M.G.B. 70 was attacked by aircraft while carrying out after repair trials East of Corton at 1626 today. One Officer and 3 ratings wounded, and boat received minor damage. (C. in C. Nore. 1901A/22) |
| Convoy F.N. 8. | Help 53° 5' N., 1° 30' E. (SOUTHDOWN 2042/22) |

### Mining

| | |
|---|---|
| RUBIS | Your 2149A/19. (Not circulated). First and second groups laid. (RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.) See Casualties. |
| Temporary operation. | Two motor mine sweepers from Sheerness are to be sailed to Harwich on 24th for temporary operation under orders of F.O.I.C. Harwich. (C. in C. Nore, 1003A/22) |
| P.W. 14. | Following from BEEHIVE. P.W. 14 completed in position ordered. Nothing to report. (C. in C. Nore. 1146A/22) |
| Portland Loops. | All loops and H.D.A's working satisfactorily but new unit for H.D.A. "A" laid 21/8 awaits final orientation. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1158A/22) |
| Operation S.N. 15. | My 1037/19. Propose to carry out as follows on 1/9 with 1st M/L Squadron and Escort. Details (R.A.M. 1229/22) See Operations Volume. |

/R.A.(M)....

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## HOME COMMANDS

### Mining-Contd.

R.A.(M) 1229/22. Request your remarks. Anticipate MANXMAN will be available. (D.D.O.D.M. 2347A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth, V.A. 2.)

**Liverpool** — Port of Liverpool included in Q.Z.S. 211 will be opened at 0630/23. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1424/22 to WHITE BEAR)

**Tyne** — At 0922/22 one Green Mine exploded by S.A. Gear. Details. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1605/22)

**Bristol Channel.** — Blue mine detonated at 0930/22 by LL Trawler in 210° 2.5 miles from Breaksea Light Vessel. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1635A/22)

**S.N. 22 B.** — Arrivals Port ZA AGAMEMNON and NEWARK. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA 1801/22)

### Enemy Intelligence

Following German vessels observed from Helsingborg on 18/8 passing northwards.
1330 1 Light Cruiser
1600 5 large transports with light (?cruiser).
Graded C.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1513/22)

### Casualties & Defects.

**RUBIS** — Seriously damaged, cannot dive. Request immediately all assistance. My P.C.S. are 058° 16' N., 004° 48' E., 245° 10. Your 2149A/19. One torpedoed, first and second groups laid. (RUBIS 0100A/22 to F.O.S.)
RUBIS 0100A/22 and my 0244A/22. Request air protection. (F.O.S. 0252A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Expect 3 Blenheim fighters about 0515. (C. in C Rosyth 0304/22 to RUBIS)
You should expect friendly aircraft at dawn. (F.O.S. 0309A/22 to RUBIS)
RUBIS damaged in 058° 16' N., 004° 48' E., course 245° 10 knots at 0100. Cannot dive. Two destroyers proceed with all despatch to act as A/A escort.
2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to send CURACOA if available. (R.A. 2 B.S. 0412A/22 to R.A.D. H.F.

/Proceed.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Casualties & Defects

RUBIS-Contd. Proceed with despatch to assist RUBIS damaged and returning on surface at ten knots through positions:- (A) 057° 25' N., 003° 25' E. (B) 057° 25' N., 001° 14' E. thence for Gap A. You are not to proceed East of 101° 30' E. unless RUBIS is being engaged by surface craft.
LIGHTNING and LIVELY proceeding to assistance of RUBIS from Scapa, passing North of East coast mine barrier. Blenheim fighter escort is being provided for RUBIS from 0530.
Attention is drawn to C.B. 03056 June 1941.
RUBIS estimated at position (A) at 0800/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0510/22 to CURACOA)
Proceed with LIVELY with all despatch to R/V with RUBIS damaged and proceeding on surface at 10 knots. Estimate position at 0500 057° 45' N., 003° 52' E. thence proceeding through following positions to gap A. When met, provide A/A protection. CURACOA is proceeding from Rosyth. (R.A.D. H.F. 0523A/22 to LIGHTNING)
My 0531A/22. CURACOA passes May Island 0730 speed 22 knots. 2 Destroyers left Scapa at 0625 proceeding with all despatch.
(F.O.S. 0658A/22 to RUBIS)
Aircraft reports RUBIS stopped in 57° 35' N., 3° 14' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 0918/22 to LIGHTNING, LIVELY)
No need to proceed with my 0523. (R.A.D. H.F. 0725/22 to CURACOA)
At 0625 sighted RUBIS on surface in 57° 51' N., 3° 52' E. 220° 8. Course zigzag and speed approximate and diminishing.
At 0700 sighted 6 mines 3 miles ahead of S/M and reported these by V/S. Speed of S/M by now almost nil.
At 0715 S/M signalled by V/S "Tow needed" Signal acknowledged.
At 0725 left RUBIS stationary in 57° 45' N., 3° 45' E. A/C report.
(Pitreavie, 0925/22)
All information concerning minefield in your vicinity is given C.B. 03056 June 1941.
(D.D.I.C. 1047A/22 to LIVELY, etc.)
LIVELY and LIGHTNING are to proceed to position K. 57° 25' N., 01° 14' E. 2. CURACOA is to R/V in position K with LIVELY and LIGHTNING and will arrive about 1515A/22.
3. Tug ABEILLE escorted by WOLFHOUND and 2 M.S. Trawlers are being sailed from Peterhead with orders to steer for position K.
4. QZX 397 is not to be entered without further orders. (V.A. 2 1121A/22 to LIVELY, LIGHTNING, CURACOA.)

/Admiralty.....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS

### Casualties & Defects

RUBIS-Contd. Admiralty 1047A/22. If you are again able to proceed you should pass through following positions instead of those stated in my 0244A/22
A. 57° 27' N., 03° 29' E.
B. 57° 19' 30" N., 03° 05' E.
C. 56° 34 N., 01° 30' E.
(F.O.S. 1144A/22 to RUBIS)
RUBIS damaged to eastward of position CURACOA, LIGHTNING and LIVELY are supporting her.
ABEILLE IV escorted by CLEVELLA and FILEY BAY are to proceed to 25 Buoy with all despatch to R/V with WOLFHOUND who is to proceed with this Force through Gap A to position K, thence steer 090° and act under orders of CURACOA QZX 397, 399 and 398 are not to be entered without further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/22 to N.O.I.C. Peterhead.)
Rescue tug ABEILLE with escort of M/S CLEVELLA and FILEY BAY sailed for R/V 25 Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1145/22)
My 1121A/22. Amend position K to read 56° 30' N., 0° 30' E. Act on subsequent information, avoiding all QZX. (V.A. 2. 1239/22 to LIGHTNING, LIVELY, CURACOA)
Inform aircraft by V/S of your estimated position and if and when you are likely to be able to proceed on your engines or your motors. Do not break W/T silence. (F.O.S. 1249A/22 to RUBIS)
My 1144A/22 and my 1249A/22. If you do not wish destroyers to pass between QZX 397 and QZX 399 and if RUBIS engines are out of action, it is still possible that she might be able to reach approx. position 57° 10' N., 2° 52' E. on her motors. If you concur, and dependent on reply to my 1249A/22, request RUBIS may be instructed accordingly. (F.O.S. 1254A/22 to V.A. 2)
My 1145/22. Amend position K. to read 56° 30' N., 0° 30' E. Act on subsequent information avoiding all QZX. (C. in C. Rosyth 1510/22 to WOLFHOUND)
E.T.A. position K 0200A/23. Speed of advance 10 knots. (WOLFHOUND 1730A/22)
In absence of further information forces proceed as follows.
(1) CURACOA with LIVELY and LIGHTNING pass through position "C" 56° 34' N., 1° 30' E. and sweep towards position "B" 57° 19' 30" N., 3° 5'E keeping west of 2° 35' E. and avoiding all QZX.
(11) WOLFHOUND with her force, passes through sam position "C" and proceeds towards position "B" subject to same restrictions. (V.A.21807A/22 to CURACOA, etc.)

/My 1249A/22....

## HOME COMMANDS

### Casualties & Defects

RUBIS-Contd. My 1249A/22. If you have not been able to pass this information by V/S to aircraft, pass it by W/T after dark tonight to addressees of this signal. If you can proceed on main motors state also for what distance. (F.O.S. 1828A/22 to RUBIS)
RUBIS sighted by A/C drifting in 058° 17' N., 004° 08' E. at 1955. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2234/22 to V.A. 2., CURACOA)
Remain on patrol in southern part of zone C.3. You may be required to assist RUBIS. (F.O.S. 2351A/22 to 0.14.)

Convoy E.C.63. PEGRIX (British, 296 tons) Sunk. My 0135A. Motor ship PEGRIX sunk after collision in 053° 5' 42" N., 1° 34' E. All crew saved. (VORTIGERN, 0231/22) (LEEDS 0245/22)

SNOWDROP, ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY: My 1214/20. SNOWDROP, ST. LOMAN, and NORWICH CITY delayed by defects. (Capt. D. Greenock 0949A/22)

SHROPSHIRE: Admty. 1327B/29/6.
2. It is intended that SHROPSHIRE should be taken in hand at Hebburn-on-Tyne, for turbine defects changing guns and fitting R.D/F when NORFOLK rejoins the Fleet.
3. It is requested that F.O.i/c Tyne may be informed of the anticipated date of arrival of SHROPSHIRE. (A.C.N.S. H. 1630A/22 to V.A. 2)

### Shipping & Convoys

East Coast Convoys. Timetable, commencing with F.S. 83 and F.N. 13. on 1/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/22) See Lion Copy.

Independent Ships. Issue of Diversion Code. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1216A/22, "A" Message) See Lion Copy.

W.S. 10 X. Following transports sailed U.K. 16/8 in convoy W.S. 10 X. (D.O.D. F. 1307/22)

H.X. 145. Amend route to avoid U.Boat route instructions from new (V) 059° 00' N., 039° 00' W. to (W) 063° 20' N., 033° 00' W., to (X) 063° 20' N., 030° 00' W. thence to H. Omit F. and G. (C. in C. W.A. 1356A/22 to CALIFORNIA)

/Belfast.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

Belfast Shipping.

C. in C. W.A. 2223A/12 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 1116A/13. Port authorities naturally assume that ships from ocean convoys will sail onwards for British Channel in next B.B. Convoy. Whenever a ship arriving for B.B. Convoy will be held for repairs or other reason the circumstances must be reported by telephone to Admty. as soon as ascertained. (D.T.D. 1622A/22 to N.C.S.O. Belfast)

Ships following next ahead.

Six valuable merchant ships were recently lost in an East Coast Convoy. The cause of this disaster is still to be investigated but it is probable that the blind following of the next ahead which is adopted by many merchant vessels in convoy was at least a contributory cause. N.C.S.O's are to impress on Masters once again the danger of such a procedure. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1629A/22)

H.G. 70.

Congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy H.G. 70. (C. in C. W.A. 1748A/22 to R/A. E.W. Leir) 21 ships, 18 British, 1 Panamanian, 2 Norwegian. Cargoes. (D.S., 716, 23/8.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H. — Departure "Mincemeat". (F.O.C.N.A.0224A/22 to Admty. etc.)

O.C.71 WIVERN. — Not met. My P.C. and S. 41° 50' N. 013° 18' W. 139° 16. (WIVERN 1050A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Sea Hurricanes. — C. in C. W.A. 1719A/19. Report number of Sea Hurricanes now serviceable At Gibraltar. (5th S.L. 1215A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply nil but expect one could be made serviceable within 6 hours of ARK ROYAL's return. (2) of the other two, one is unserviceable in ARK ROYAL and the other at North Front due to shortage of spares. (F.O.C.N.A. 1614A/22.)

French Ships. Spanish Ships. — Gibraltar 0900 Destroyer BRESTOIS S.S. FORT DE VAUX laden ROUENNAIS THISBE CONDE all light westbound. 1047 Armed Trawler LA TOULONNAISE, S.S. BOURGES light ST. BAZIL ALFRED CARTHAGE all laden eastbound. 0950 Spanish Sloop EDUARDO DATO Spanish Ship CASTILLO OROPESA deck cargo approx. 19 lorries entered Ceuta from N.E. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1517A/22.)

L'OBSTINE. — Departure 21/8 L'OBSTINE Oporto 22nd. (Lisbon 1809/22.)

U-boat situation. — German possibly one west or S.W. of Madeira. 6 or 7 Italian in Azores Madeira Portugal area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810A/22 to CLYDE, SEVERN.)

South Atlantic.

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. — Your 1848/18 and C. in C.A. and W.I.1128/20. A.M.C. escort can be provided from 040° W. (C. in C.S.A. 0309N/22 to Admty.)

/KOLLSKEGG .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

KOLLSKEGG. Overdue shipping my 1117/19. KOLLSKEGG arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0942B/22.)

ALBATROSS. St. Helena departure 0200/22 ALBATROSS on operations. (General St. Helena 1005/22.)

Escort arrangements. Owing to additional escort commitments due to arrival of REVENGE and departure of EAGLE in addition to W.S.10 X. propose to retain AVONVALE and ERIDGE to meet and escort REVENGE in and assist in escort of REVENGE and W.S.10 X out. Escort difficulties of fast ships are increased owing to withdrawal of 4 destroyers. (C. in C.S.A. 1337N/22 to Adty.

EAGLE. Adty. 1547/21 and my 1811/16 DUNOTTAR CASTLE arriving Freetown about 27/8 has 7 officers and 8 ratings for EAGLE also escort problems will be easier about 28/8. Can EAGLE be retained until latter date. (C. in C.S.A. 1347N/22 to Adty.)

S.S.SILDRA (torpedoed 19/8.) Your 1333N/22. There is no other indication of any U-Boat in this area. (D.D.I.C.1943A/22 to C. in C.S.A.)

Operation "Kedgeree" S.S. SAGITTAIRE. Ref. "Kedgeree" Capetown section of S.D.F. whalers report contact with SAGITTAIRE and one unknown French vessel (merchant) escorted by two funnelled sloop in 40° 15' S. 24° 47' E. at 1530Z/22. All units informed. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2030Z/22 to Adty., C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Air attacks Canal area, Benghazi. Some damage to private property Port Said in raid on night Aug. 20/21 Civilian casualties.
Night 20/21 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs falling on and near railway sidings.
Day 21/8. Tomahawks provided covering Patrols over shipping off Sidi Barrani. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1006/22.)

/ALBARO .....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

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|---|---|
| ALBARO. (Italian) | My 18066/21. ALBARO proceeded Varna. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 10590/22.) |
| Alexandria Raid. | Air Raid 0415 to 0515. 7 Planes high level bombing with flares about 21 bombs. Slight damage Karmous Power Station, 3 killed 6 injured. (R.A. Alexandria, 11016/22 to Admty.) |
| UNIQUE. | Do not approach within 20? miles of Tripoli (Libya). (S.O.S., Malta, 11043/22 to UNIQUE.) |
| Shipping Alexandria. | Reply to C. in C. Med. 1124/18. (D.S.T., 1117A/22) See Lion Copy. |
| PELES torpedoed. | (A) Report B.1 Roumanian steamer PELES torpedoed and sunk by submarine 11350/15 15 miles off Cape Emine, Roumania. (B) 3 air raids Constantza 16th, 17th, 18/8, hits on Petroleum Co. Basin pipelines at Palas and many fires started. Cernavoda Bridge again hit 17/8, pipelines caught fire and damaged the railway track. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 11240/22 to S.O.I. Med.) N.I.D. Comment. PELES is 5708 G.T. and has been trading in Black Sea. |
| UPRIGHT. | UPRIGHT leaves Malta p.m./24 for Area K. 038° 00' 011° N. - 000° - 60 - ?5. (S.O.S. Malta, 11528/22 to Capt. S.8.) |
| Enemy Shipping. | 21st departure DERNA Genoa, SAINT BRIEUX French. Arrival 22nd CORTLOGON French. French ship KOULA ? beached near Palmas apparently after having been on fire. (Barcelona, 1225/22 to M. of W.T.) |
| Enemy Tanker. | Medium size tanker en route Benghazi is due position 45 miles 310° from that place at 0500 G.M.T./25. (Capt. S.1. 15450/22 to TETRARCH.) |
| UPRIGHT, TRIUMPH, TAKU. | UPRIGHT will make passage to N.W. through Q.B.B.65 during daylight/25 to operate in area K. north of 038° 15' and west of 011° 50' until a.m./26. If you make return passage through Q.B.B. Area on 25/8 attempt to communicate with UPRIGHT by S.S.T. TAKU probably leaves Malta p.m./25 to N.W. through 036° 30' 013° 40' to make passage during daylight/27. (Cdr. S.1. 1355B/22 to TRIUMPH.) |

/UPHOLDER .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

UPHOLDER, UPRIGHT. Leave area so as to make passage through Q.B.B. 65 during daylight/24 carrying out Coastal operation if opportunity arises, then to arrive Malta a.m./26. UPRIGHT leaves Malta through 035° 30' 015° 40' to make same passage to N.W. during daylight/25. (Cdr. S.1. 1401B/22 to UPHOLDER.)

"FORTU". The code word "FORTU" may be amplified by letters and figures showing the type and number of aircraft being sent and a 4 figure group indicating the approx. time they will arrive over ships. Letters to indicate types are as follows:- A.Spitfire, B.Beaufighter, C.Tomahawk, D.Fulmar, F.Martlett, G.Maryland, H.Blenheim, J.Short range Hurricane, K.Long range Hurricane. (C. in C. Med. 1410C/22.)

Air Operations. 22/8. Lampedusa Harbour. M.V. bombed 18/8 still on fire. Photos now show Schooner 700 tons on its side alongside. Must have been hit by Blenheim with near miss at same time.
0710 hours one M.V. and 1 tanker 1,000 tons, 2 schooners 800 tons, 1 small sailing vessel 40 degs. Lampion Island 6 miles. 1200 hours Vichy convoy 3 M.V's 15,000 tons southbound Straits of Messina.
Part III. 2 Swordfish out on shipping sweep located a convoy of 3 large M.V's with considerable destroyer escort northbound off Kerkena, 7 Swordfish sent off as striking force and in very bad visibility down to ½ a mile in gusty weather and a black night found convoy. Destroyers then put up smoke screen and flares only illuminated targets for momentary period. 2 torpedoes aimed at 2 separate destroyers as M.V's were never seen. No hits claimed.
A very gallant attempt to strike convoy.

Heavy attack on Tripoli. Heaviest attack of war was made on Tripoli night 21/22 August. 16 Wellingtons dropped 24 tons H.E. and 1½ tons incendiaries Spanish Quay Tripoli from 4,000 to 9,000 feet. Many explosions and good fires started. 1 (very fire) (sic) was visible from 55 miles. Many sticks straddled Spanish Quay where 4 ships were alongside with numerous small craft and lighters. Explosions seen inside Spanish Quay warehouses which are believed destroyed. Other considerable damage done to shipping in the harbour and harbour installations.
A.M.22/8 - 5 Blenheims shipping sweep Gulf of Sidra. No shipping seen. (H.Q. Malta 1600/22.)

/Communications ...

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Communications by French warships at Alexandria. | Your 1955/28/7. Messages received in Admiralty are either in plain language or in a code which cannot at present be read. There are obvious security risks in a situation in which the French warships may communicate with Vichy authorities in cyphers to which we have not the key. Request, therefore, information concerning your understanding and your further observations. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1647A/22 to C. in C. Med.) |
| 10.D.F. | The 10th D.F. has from today 22/8 ceased to exist. VENDETTA has joined 7th D.F. and DECOY 2nd D.F. (C. in C. Med., 1835C/22 to Med. Stn.) |
| HANS SCHMIDT, (German) | Departure 21/8. (Valencia, 1910/22 to M. of W.T.) |
| Forthcoming Italian operation. | Italians contemplate operation nature unknown within radius of 28 miles of 032° 07' 020° 04'. 4 gunboats being sent that place for A/S work. (Capt.(S) One 1920C/22 to TETRARCH) Probably minelaying.(Capt. S.1. 1155C/23.) |
| Relief of NELSON by RODNEY. | Adty. 1524A/21 is passed to you for information. (H.W.R. 2145A/22 to C. in C. Med.) |
| Black Sea. | Following from S.N.L.O. Black Sea. Chief Naval Staff Officer (I) Sebastopol requests Admiralty confirmation or not of alleged recent transportation of German E-Boats to Black Sea. He states hulls of all warships at Nikolaev including battleship under construction have been removed together with most of the machinery and armament for completion in other ports. Most male population evacuated and plant destroyed. Three Soviet gunboats supporting troops Odessa yesterday. Small scale air attacks on enemy shipping near Dniester Bay and on Suloma and Ploesti and bridges above Constanza. Stated enemy submarine definitely operating Black Sea but so far only one unsuccessful attack experienced. Sebastopol quiet. T.O.O.1804C/21. (Admiral Miles 2240/22.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Suspicious Vessel.**

My 1458/21 not to Admty. Ship purports to be MASCOT. ENTERPRISE is to continue investigating. Remaining ships are to proceed as follows: EXETER to Aden direct, 16 knots. EMERALD to Seychelles, 15 knots. MAURITIUS towards 006° N. 090° 20 knots. CERES to Bombay, 15 knots. (C. in C. E.I., 0456Z/22 to Force V).
My 1434 21 (i) Force V has been dispersed (ii) Air Search A.M./22 reveals ship still at anchor and a second ship close to anchorage from Eastwards. Latter subsequently identified as BARON ELPHINSTONE from Vizagapatam to Durban routed through 8 degs. channel and Cutter (?cutting) Corner by passing through Gallandu Channel (iii) ENTERPRISE has confirmed ship at anchorage is Panamanian MASCOT from Capetown to Colombo due 16/8 with no wireless and almost run out of fuel. ENTERPRISE is giving fuel and returns to Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 1306Z/22 to Admty.)

**Operation "Countenance"**

Russians have asked for postponement of operation on technical grounds until dawn/25. H.M. Govt. have agreed and D.1 will therefore be 25/8. Acknowledge. (W.O. 1415/22 to No. 30 Mily. Mission).

**CORFU. HECTOR. ANTENOR.**

Your 0630Z/12 and earlier signals.
2. It has been decided that:-
A. CORFU should remain on E.I. Station on completion.
B. HECTOR or (R) or ANTENOR should be returned to trade.
C. Re crew for CORFU.
D. Guns and ammunition surplus to D.E.M.S. should be landed at Colombo for local defence on E.I. Station. (D.O.D.(F) 1709A/22 to C. in C.E.I.)

**Diego Garcia.**

A.M. 1748R/6 and 2331A/19 are to be amended to accord with A.M. 1939/21. (D. of L.D. 1815A/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N).

**Air attack on docks.**

Your 0650Z/28/7. Following figures apply to Japanese aircraft so far as is known:- (D.N.A.D. 1841A/22 to F.O.C.R.I.N).

**Service passengers.**

Admiralty 1744/16/7 para. 2.
A. Should it be possible to avoid formation of an escorted convoy by increasing the number of Naval personnel to 150 this is acceptable, but every effort should be made to spread numbers over available passages as at present.
B. The following need not be included in the limitation of 100 Army passengers:- (4th S.L. 1848A/22 to C's in C. and authorities abroad).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.8.1941. Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

**Pacific Routeing Plans.** Remarks (C. in C. China 0503Z/22). See Operations Volume.

**French Ships.** Arrivals 22/8. D'ARTAGNAN, KHAI-DINH. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0655Z/22).

**U.S. Naval representative.** Your 1335 of 17/5 para. (ix) and A.C.N.B. (?1415) of 18/6 paras. (ii) and (iii). Is proposal to appoint representative of C. in C.U.S. Pacific Fleet to combine staff at Singapore proceeding. Consider appointment not essential if present naval observer is regarded as also representing C. in C. Pacific Fleet. (C. in C. China 0905Z/22 to Adty.)

**I.A.F.** From Chiefs of Staff. War Cabinet have reviewed their previous decision regarding training facilities to be afforded International Air Force in Burma. Details. (Air Min., 1416/22 to C. in C. Far East.)

**SCARAB. SEAMEW.** Your 0311Z/21. Approved for SCARAB and SEAMEW to be transferred to the E.I. stations as proposed. Request you will make further arrangements direct with C. in C. E.I. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1717A/22 to C. in C. China).

### America and West Indies.

**LACONIA.** Your 2320A/19 and your 1541A (?20). As it is desired LACONIA should be among first to give leave and as ship after refit can carry large number of passengers propose LACONIA proceeds U.K. H.X. 147. Any R.A.F. remaining Iceland could be brought to Halifax by escort for H.X. 148 who would take provisions there in place LACONIA. (R.A. 3 1131P/22 to Adty.) Concur. (D.O.D.(H) 1052A/23).

/LE TRIOMPHANT....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

LE TRIOMPHANT. My 1222Q/10. LE TRIOMPHANT reports excessive fuel consumption which has now been remedied necessitated fuelling Balboa 17th. Fuel not available Acapulco but British and Mexican authorities have arranged supply St. Miguel 22nd. Ship proposes to arrive San Diego p.m./25 and remain until 27th to make good defects. Onward programme unchanged. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222Q/22 to Admty., B.A.D).
Permission is being requested through State Dept. for F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT to remain at San Diego until approx. 4/9. in order that Commandants D'Argenlieu and Cabanier who are proceeding from U.K. by air, may join ship there.
2. Ad's 1949B/25/7 and 1851B/30/7 refer.
(D.O.D.(F) 1335A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Tampico. Decided to abolish Tampico as N.C.S. Port. Appointments. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1224Q/22 to C. S.A., Tampico).

FURIOUS. Your 0504A/15. FURIOUS allotted to Philadelphia. (B.A.R.M. 1528R/22 to Admty.)

CARADOC. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. My 1232Q/19 and D. of S.T. 1759A/21. CARADOC will be detailed to escort DUCHESS OF ATHOLL from Halifax to Trinidad and from Trinidad to 040° W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1602S/22 to Admty. amended 1232Q/23).

T.C.14. It is proposed to form T.C.14 as follows. (D. of S.T. 1725A/22).

RICHMOND CASTLE. My 1520Z/18. RICHMOND CASTLE sailed Halifax 22/8 arriving New York 1200Z/25 for repairs, cargo being loaded into another ship by crew. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2103Z/22 to Admty.)

Task Force 3. Composition and future movements. (D.O.D. (F) 2128A/22).

/STELLA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.8.1941. Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

STELLA. Italian. — Your 1632Q/22. Manifest of STELLA shows following cargo on board. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2142Q/22 to Admty.)

ORION to examine Galapagos Is. — Your 1643 G.M.T/17. Proceed Galapagos Islands examine anchorages providing cover for KAIKOURA en route then continue passage San Diego at best possible speed. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2251Q/22 to ORION). Approved (A.C.N.S. (F), 1155A/23).

S.S. KOTA NOPAN sunk 17/8 by raider. — ORION reports: S.S. ARDENVOHR reports S.S. KOTA NOPAN sunk by raider off Galapagos Islands on 17/8. Information received by radio at 1650 G.M.T/17 from KOTA NOPAN in 001 22 S. 089 10 W. Message stopped abruptly during third repeat. 1643 G.M.T./22 ends.. KAIKOURA sailed Balboa 0705/22 request instructions. U.S. Authorities informed. 1601/22 ends.. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2303Q/22 to Admty.)

### Australia.

U.S.12B. — My 1045M/18 A.C.N.B. 1359Z/21, R.A. Malaya 0834Z/21. If permission granted to embark 5000 tons stores and equipment in JOHAN VAN OLDEN BARNEVELT anticipated New Zealand portion U.S. 12 B. will be ready to sail Wellington (date). (N.Z.N.B., 0952M/22 to D. of S.T).

CAP TARIFA. (French). — Arrival and departure Sydney. (Port Kembla, 2355Z/22 to M. of W.T).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

S.S. SILDRA (torpedoed 19/8).

24 survivors from Norwegian S.S. SILDRA landed Bonthe in Sierra Leone. Vessel torpedoed 2015 G.M.T/19 in 005° 00' N., 012° 10' W. Any indication whether this is likely to have been German or Italian Submarine would be of assistance for purpose of D/F Watch Set.
(C.in C. S.A., 1333N/22 to Admty) See also South Atlantic.

BATH (torpedoed 19/8).

Arrival HYDRANGEA with 9 survivors.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1946A/22).

Convoy O.G.71, 2 ships torpedoed.

1 ship has been torpedoed.
(GURKHA, 2100Z/22).
1 ship, number unknown, torpedoed in 040° 43' N., 011° 39' W., at 2230.
(GURKHA, 2250A/22 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0722/23 to Admty).

### Submarines Reported.

O.G.71

O.G.71 being shadowed by 6 U-boats and aircraft. All U-boats to W. and S.W. at dusk. Am conducting diversion to attract them to N., and steering 110° throughout night. Estimate my position at 0600A/22 042° 26' N., 012° 40' W. Urgently request air support from dawn. Essential that aircraft should carry S.P.02266 and be able to communicate by R/T. Request you will indicate Frequency. (GURKHA, 0001A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Am being shadowed by 2 aircraft who are making homeward signals on 300 Kc/s. 2 S/Ms have answered and are closing from westward. Aircraft unable to catch enemy aircraft. Have sent aircraft and BOREAS to down S/Ms. My P.C. and S. at 1115A 41° 53', 12° 18', 195° 7.
(GURKHA, 1116A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Wireless traffic from U-boats suggests there are up to 9 U-boats in your general vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1229A/22 to LEITH, GURKHA, LANCE, WIVERN, BOREAS).
The same U-boat has made shadowing reports at 1430A 1534A, 1639A, 1753A. Times of origin of signals 25 minutes past the hour. (D.D.I.C., 1835A/22 to GURKHA, LANCE, LEITH)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.8.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

Orkneys, Loop crossing.

In view of crossing of indicator loop again last night request search by A/C for suspected U-boat in area bounded by Orkneys, 59° 30' N., 58° 40' N. and longitude 1° 40' W., from 1100/22. Three destroyers at instant notice to co-operate if U-boat detected. Naval A/C have patrolled off Eastern entrances since first light and continue up to 1100. No report so far.
(A.C.O.S., 1010A/22 to 18 Group).
My 1010/22, request you will divert search to area to Westward of Orkneys with particular attention to Hoy Entrance to Flow. Area to eastward will now be covered by Naval A/C all today but Naval A/C will not now be operating to Westward. (A.C.O.S., 1115A/22 to 18 Group).
My 1115/22. Request search detailed in my 1010/22 may be substituted for search to westward of Orkneys during hours of darkness 22/23/8 using A.S.V.
This search not required after sunrise 23/8 if no further developments. Surface patrols will be maintained off Holm Sound by one trawler, two M.L.'s and one destroyer on three lines the outermost being 200° from Copinsay.
(A.C.O.S., 1800/22 to 18 Group).
Search being carried out tonight as requested in your 1800/22 to 18 Group.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2032/22 to A.C.O.S.)

1155.

(A) RO/G11/22/8.
(C) One Hudson to locate damaged submarine in vicinity 57.45 N., 3.45 E., Object to report precise position S/M. Wireless silence not to be broken. Special attention to navigation. A/C to return immediately on sighting.
(Pitreavie, 1155/22 to Leuchars.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1442A/22).

1300Z.

U-boat sighted on surface by A/C in 62° 35' N., 24° 10' W., course 067°, 8 knots at 1300/22. U-boat crash dived. (R.A.F. ICE, 1640/22 to H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C., 1646/22, 1649/22 to S. & A, O. & S, Valencia Radio, 1658/22).

Estimated U-boats.

German one Orkneys. Two in Bay of Biscay inward bound one of them about 046° 30' N., 007° W. Italian 3 in Bay of Biscay. (F.O.(S), 1637A/22 to S/Ms Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

Three M.T.B's from Dover operated last night between Berck Buoy and Fecamp.

Operation "Gauntlet".

C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE, with VICTORIOUS, SUFFOLK, and 3 Destroyers, left Scapa at 1541A for the operations in North Russian waters.

A case of suspected sabotage is reported today in RENOWN whose ventilating-fans have been damaged.

### British Air Activity.

During the night 22/23 nineteen A/C bombed the docks at Havre, starting fires; and bombs were also dropped at Nieuport, Ostend, and Dunkirk.

### Enemy Air Activity.

An enemy A/C passed over Scapa Flow at 1403 today at 25,000 feet in clear weather. No RDF.was received.

An A/C over Burnham last night is suspected of having taken photographs.

H.M. Trawler BRABANT shot down an enemy aircraft which bombed her this evening in 55° 43' N. 1° 36' W. BRABANT suffered no serious damage.

A.P. Vessel MORGAN JONES was slightly damaged by air attack off the Tyne tonight.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation S.N.70 A.

R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, with PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON and NEWARK, left Port Z.A. at 1630 for the postponed minelaying operation S.N.70 A., in which ADVENTURE also left to take part at 1841.

Liverpool was reopened at 0630.

Shipping and Convoys.

To provide a greater margin of endurance and greater flexibility in routeing S.L. and O.S. convoys, it is proposed to try out a scheme for fuelling escorts at sea at the Southern R/V.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Kedgeree".

The French convoy has not been sighted, and AUSTRALIA at 1750Z today ordered all the SDF whalers to return to harbour. Air patrols to a depth of 450 miles will continue tomorrow and Monday as far as 15° E.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Mincemeat".

10 Swordfish were flown off from /RK ROYAL at 0250 west of Sardinia and set fire to the cork woods and a factory near Tempio. At 0740 Force H. was sighted and two hours later reports of the enemy's battle fleet at sea south of Sardinia were received.

/Anticipating ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Anticipating that the enemy heavy units were probably proceeding westward south of Sardinia at dawn tomorrow, UPHOLDER, TRIUMPH, URSULA and UTMOST were today ordered to take up certain positions for attack.

Convoy attacked. — Blenheims today attacked a small convoy off Kerkenah and secured a direct hit with a 250 lb. bomb on a merchant ship of 1000 tons and also damaged a schooner.

Libya and Western Desert. — Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night and Derna today.

C. in C. Med. reports that storeship LESBOS was damaged by bombing and unable to sail from Tobruk after unloading.

TORBAY, on return to Alexandria reports a possible hit on an escorted convoy off Benghazi at 1250/12 and that she sank a large Italian schooner by demolition charge off Cape Matapan on 16/8.

Crete. — TORBAY has returned to Alexandria with 130 British and Allied troops evacuated from Crete.

Black Sea. — Adm. Miles reports that enemy shipping is using the western seaboard of Black Sea with as yet little opposition, even from the air. Roumanian warships are being used operationally and Bulgarian torpedo boats as convoy escorts. Russian shipping to the eastward of Sebastopol is, however, proceeding normally, and about 1 ship each night is entering Odessa, which town is being defended principally by sailors.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Vichy Ships. Netherlands East Indies Authorities have detained DUPLEIX, which they intercepted nearly 3 weeks ago and took into Tanjong Priok, and are placing her in prize with a view to seizure in compensation for Dutch ships held in French North Africa. They will also try to seize COMPIEGNE (returned to Saigon) as further compensation should she sail for Madagascar.

Plans for certain coastal defences in the Maldive Islands were outlined by the Admty. today.

America and West Indies.

KOTA NOPAN sunk by raider 17/8. Further dispositions were ordered today owing to the news received yesterday of the sinking of the Dutch KOTA NOPAN by a raider off the Galapagos Islands on 17/8.

DISPATCH was ordered to return to Jamaica to fuel in readiness to proceed through the Canal and establish patrol off Galapagos Islands. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa were asked to sail PRINCE HENRY to establish a patrol off the Islands.

C. in C.A.W.I. has asked for immediate action to enable H.M. ships to fuel in U.S. ports without restriction.

Spanish Campas Line. Tankers of Spanish Campas line are suspected of having fuelled enemy ships in the Atlantic during May, June and July.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.G.71.
BATH,
ZINNIA and
8 ships
sunk.

Following the attacks on Convoy O.G.71 on 19/8, in which the destroyer BATH and ALVA, CISCAR and AGUILA were torpedoed, 3 more attacks were made last night. In the first, EMPIRE OAK and CLONLARA were sunk; in the second, ALDERGROVE and STORK; and in the third the corvette ZINNIA.

Norwegian SPIND which had separated from the convoy was shelled by a S/M and set on fire and had to be sunk by one of the convoy escorts.

The Admiralty ordered the remainder of the convoy to enter the Tagus.
The fact that no contact was made with the enemy is considered disturbing by Admty. who have asked C.O's of escorts on arrival at Gibraltar to report whether any new or special circumstances may account for it. Preliminary reports from escort ships appear to indicate that the convoy was browned from extreme range by not more than two submarines.

INGER. Was torpedoed and sunk at 1000A today in 58° 58' N. 7° 50' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

East Coast Convoy Escorts.

Reference nightly duty of Nore destroyers when weather is suitable for E. boats, one at least of Nore destroyers with A.S.V. is to occupy position V ahead of each convoy as soon as it is quite dark and carry out broad zigzag where navigation conditions permit. (C. in C. Nore 1106A/23).

M.L's.

Motor Launches 1006, 1050, 1052, 1076, and 1077 awaiting shipment to West Africa, and 1046 unallocated to a flotilla, may be employed on local patrol duties until further orders. (D.D.O.D. C. 1854A/23 to C. in C. W.A).

22nd M.L.F.

It is proposed that the 22nd M.L. Flotilla, completing about December 1941, be based at Lerwick. A.C.O.S. is requested to state his views as to the suitability of Lerwick as a base during the winter months. (D.D.O.D. C. 1855A/23).

A/C Torpedo attacks. Procedure.

Your 1747A/19 From our own experience there is always a tendency to underestimate speed due to lack of practice against high speed targets, and this is reflected in propensity of our aircraft to hit aft on enemy ships.
2. Turn away from attack abaft the beam clearly reduces probability of hits. Whether turn away makes hit aft more probable than hit forward depends very largely on how far the ship has swung when torpedo arrives. A turn towards, by presenting larger virtual target and reducing time of flight of torpedo, will increase the probability of hits from attacks abaft the beam.
3. Do you wish further investigation into any particular aspect?
(5th S.L. 2153A/23 to C. in C. H.F.).

### Co-operation with Russia.

A/C in ARGUS.

Your Air 459. 21/8. Following instructions given for flight to Voyengo. (Air Ministry 1445/23 to Britlistaf, Moscow). See Operations Volume.

Proposed S/M patrol.

Admiral Miles 1758/23. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VIVACIOUS. Sail at 0600 tomorrow to Scapa adjusting speed to arrive before dark. Speed west of Elieness should not exceed 9 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1119/23 to VIVACIOUS).

ARETHUSA.
VERDUN.
HAMBLEDON. Your 1305A/22 and your 1040A/23. Weather permitting VERDUN from R.E.F. and HAMBLEDON from the Nore will be available to provide S.A. escort for ARETHUSA (in accordance with Adty. 1105B/24/7 para. one) from 090° Fifeness eight miles at estimated 1100/24 to the Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth 1257/23).
1. HAMBLEDON is to sail from Tyne at 0800/24 and VERDUN sail from Methil at 1000/24 and both ships proceed by War Channels independently at speeds as requisite to R/V with ARETHUSA at 1200/24 in 090 degs Fifeness 8 miles.
2. HAMBLEDON and VERDUN are to act as S.A. escort to ARETHUSA from R/V 1200/24 to Tyne Pier Head.
3. VERDUN is to enter Tyne and F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail VERDUN 0800/25th at 14 knots for Rosyth.
4. From Tyne Pier Head, HAMBLEDON is to proceed independently by the war channels at 15 knots to Harwich unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Nore.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1925/23).

AFD. IV.
KRAKOWIAK.
KUJAWIAK. If you consider POZARICA and BLANKNEY are now sufficient escort for AFD.4., request you order POZARICA to detach KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK to arrive Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively by 1200/24. (C. in C. Plymouth 1306/23 to C. in C. W.A).
C. in C. Plymouth's 1306/23. On passing Bardsey Island POZARICA is to detach KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK to proceed to Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively at best speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1602A/23 Cancel my 1602A/23. POZARICA is to detach KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK at such time as will allow them to arrive at Milford Haven and Falmouth respectively at 1200A/24. (C. in C. W.A. 2018A/23).

P.34. (1) Intend to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE for Barrow at 1900A/24. E.T.A. 1200A/25. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. (Capt. S.3 1615A/23).

O.14. Return to Dundee diving by day by route previously ordered by Capt. (S) 9. (C.O.S. 2359A/23 to O.14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation 'Gauntlet'.

Your 1928A/21. Please inform Admiral Miles that Force 'A' with EMPRESS OF CANADA expected to arrive at position "DD" (069° N. 043° E) at 1600/28.
(ii) Admiral Miles 18230/20. Request beacons may be started at 07002/27 for Force A. Concur otherwise with suggestion in signal quoted. Presume beacons operate in fog only.
(iii) My 1807A/18 para. one (a) and your 2046A/19/8. Request confirmation that W/T arrangements have been made. (V.A.2 1214/23 to Adty.)
Scapa departure C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with VICTORIOUS, SUFFOLK, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, ESCAPADE. (A.C.O.S. 1541A/23 to Admty.)
In view of your 1549A/22 cancel my 18230/20 (re Beacons). (Ad. Miles 1730/23 to Adty.)
Your 2046A/19. Arrangements made. Limit of Soviet air protection 180 miles radius from Murmansk.
Reference (b) letter G for George has been omitted from recoding table arranged. Have arranged with Soviet signal officer that G for George will not be transposed. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 21210/23 to Adty.)

Operation 'Dervish'.

Your 1048/21. Request you will arrange restriction in para. 1 (c) of A.M. 1026/20 between following dates, after which 'Benedict' forces will be clear of the area. (V.C.N.S. 1818A/23 to Ad. Miles).

British Air Activity.

Escort for RUBIS.

My 0642/23. Two Beaufighters due in area about 0820/23. Two Catalinas and one Sunderland escorted by six Blenheim Fighters due in area about 1015/23. It is hoped to maintain four Beaufighters in area from 1000/23 until completion of embarkation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/23).

Escort for S.N.70A on 23 and 24/8.

18 Group will provide air escort. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 0948/23).

/Bombing.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity-Contd.

**Bombing operations.**

On Night 22/23 nineteen A/C bombed the docks at Havre, starting fires. Bombs were also dropped at Nieuport, Ostend, and Dunkirk. (H.Q.B.C. 1420/23).

**A/C for Russia.**

Air Ministry 1445/23. See Operations Volume.

**A/S sweep and search.**

An A/S sweep is being carried out to-morrow by 6 Whitleys and we shall be searching an area B.P.K.T. 2800, J.Z.Q.Q. 2210, Z.N.R.A. 3626, G.F.T.Y. 2238 between 0500 and 1200/24. (C. in C. W.A. 2254A/23).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Convoy.**

Fighters are being sent to assist Convoy 'Fitting'. (Lyness W/T 0831/23).

**JULIET (Trawler) sunk on 20/8.**

Trawler JULIET when fishing 25 miles S. by W. of Old Head of Kinsale at 1500 G.M.T/20 was sunk by near misses from 4 engined plane flying at great height. Crew later machine gunned in boat. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1006A/23).

**Burnham.**

Following from R.N.O. Burnham, begins. Had several reports last night at 2317, 2320 and 2322/22 (and similar reports on previous nights) of an aircraft flying over Burnham at varying heights from very high to as low as 500 ft. but with almost complete absence of engine sound and showing a bright white light directly downwards for very short intervals. Reports are now most reliable. It has been suggested that photographs may have been taken. 0941A/23 ends. (C. in C. Nore 1446A/23).

**A/C over Scapa.**

At 1403/23 enemy A/C identified by ground defences passed over Flow from N.W. to S.E. at 25,000. No cloud. No R.D.F. received. (A.C.O.S. 1625A/23).

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

S.N.15. — Your 2347A/22 and R.A.(M)'s 1229/22. Concur in proposed position of mine-field. Escort outlined in para. (III) of R.A.(M)'s 1229/22 cannot be provided from Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1115/23 to Adty.)

Port Edgar Loop. — M.P.Z. loop and new tail laid 22/8. Capt. Port Edgar 1149/23.)

Q.L.1. — My 2814A/18 and my 1446A/19. Operation Q.L. (i) postponed until 26/8. (C. in C. Nore 1202A/23.)

Portsmouth Area Clearance Sweeps. — Area cleared in Q.Z.Y. 247 and Q.Z.Y. 250 by 9th and 13th M/S Flotillas to date. Details. Two explosive Cutters were cut and destroyed in the following positions.
One T type mine dragged from estimated position 50° 26' 18" N., 2° 13' 36" W., and sunk in estimated position 50° 28' N., 2° 11' 18" W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1203A/23.)

Operation S.N.70A. — Port Z.A. departures R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON, and NEWARK at 1630. ADVENTURE at 1841. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1845/23.)

SOLARRIS. (Faroese, 236 Tons) sunk about 20/8. — Reported SOLARRIS struck a mine and sank off Seidis Fiord about 20th August. Only 2 survivors Vessel was presumably in prohibited area. (A.C.I.C. 2157/23.)

### Casualties and Defects.

RUBIS. (Damaged 22/8.) — My 1828A/22. A. If no signal is received from RUBIS suggest every effort be made to locate her by air at daylight, the aircraft landing on the water to communicate verbally. If she cannot move, crew to be removed and submarine sunk.
B. If RUBIS reports tonight that she cannot move, suggest similar action. (F.O.S. 0012A/23 to V.A.2.)
Position of RUBIS doubtful. Comply with my 1807A/22 keeping on line between position C and B to assist aircraft. (V.A.2 0056/23 to CURACOA, WOLFHOUND.)

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties and Defects.

RUBIS (Damaged 22/8) -Contd.

058° 04'. 004° 09' E. (RUBIS No T.O.O./23 Recd. 0057/23, C. in C. Rosyth 0140/23 to V.A. 2, F.O. (S), CURACOA).
Reference RUBIS position 58° 04' N. 04° 09' E. Consider use of tug out of question and only hope lies in sending fast A/A vessels.
2. The risk from mines and air for these ships is considerable and I do not consider they should be accepted.
3. Request arrangements be made as in F.O.S. 0012A/23 to investigate with aircraft and if necessary to bring off crew and sink RUBIS.
4. CURACOA and WOLFHOUND with respective forces to R/V in position C. and remain in vicinity in case RUBIS can move. (V.A.2. 0251/23).
Beauforts proceeding to search.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0350/23 to CURACOA, WOLFHOUND).
3 Catalina aircraft are proceeding 0710 today to locate you and will alight. If you are still unable to move aircraft have orders to embark your crew. Destroy all secret papers before evacuating ship and then sink your ship.
(F.O.S. 0614A/23 to RUBIS).
A/C reports RUBIS in 58° 15' N. 04° 11' E. at 0609/23. (C. in C. Rosyth 0642/23 to CURACOA).
628. A/C reports RUBIS in about 58° N. 04° 10' E. at 1225/23, course 225 degrees 7½ knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1444/23).
Following is repetition of my 1424A/23.
RUBIS unable to move or dive last reported by own aircraft at 0854 today in 58° 13' N. 04° 12' E.
Proceed on surface at your discretion to locate RUBIS and embark her crew. RUBIS is to be scuttled after destruction of secret papers and you are then to return to base by route which will be ordered later. T.B.R. arranged.
(F.O.S. 1454A/23 to O.14).
Request next aircraft to gain touch with RUBIS makes following signals to her by V/S.
1. "Can you maintain your present speed". Then wait for reply.
2. "Proceed to position 56° 34' N. 1° 30' E. where surface forces are waiting.
3. "Pass through 57° 27' N. 03° 29' E. and 57° 19' N. 03° 05' E.
4. "Your best chance is under your own power".
(F.O.S. 1526A/23 to V.A.2).
My 1424A/23. RUBIS sighted by aircraft at 1225 proceeding under own power on course 225°. You are to continue to make for 58° 13' N. 004° 12' E. (F.O.S. 1551A/23 to O.14).

/My 1807.....

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties and Defects.

RUBIS (Damaged 22/8) -Contd.

My 1807/22 and C. in C. Rosyth 1444/23. Proceed to meet RUBIS, keeping clear of all Q.Z.X. and to westward of position B. (V.A.2. 1604/23 to CURACOA, WOLFHOUND). Surface forces including CURACOA and WOLFHOUND are to proceed towards 057° 19' 30" N. 003° 05' E. to meet you. (F.O.S. 1837A/23 to RUBIS). A/C Reports RUBIS in 57° 20' N. 3° 38' E. at 1720/23, course 220, speed 7 knots. No surface craft sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 1928/23 to CURACOA). My 1551A/23. On arrival in this position patrol in its vicinity. (F.O.S. 2204A/23 to O.14). If Surface Forces make contact with RUBIS I would be most grateful if RUBIS could be escorted to Dundee by 1 ship. (F.O.S. 2254A/23 to V.A.2).

RENOWN. Suspected sabotage.

A.F.O. 199/41. Suspected case of sabotage has occurred in RENOWN when damage was caused to ventilating fans. Written report from RENOWN is being forwarded. A.S. Rosyth is requested to inform A.P.O who is to investigate. RENOWN is to hold preliminary enquiry as soon as possible. (C. in C. Rosyth 1815/23).

### Shipping and Convoys.

Northbound Convoys.

Forecast of sailings from Southend. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1145/23) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 144. S.C. 40.

When ships addressed have joined, H.X. 144 and S.C.40 are to separate and H.X. 144 is to proceed at 8½ knots. CHURCHILL and BURNHAM are to join escort of H.X. 144. S.O. of Group BULLDOG. (C. in C. W.A. 1245A/23 to Escorts of H.X. 144, S.C.40, CHURCHILL, BURNHAM, GEORGETOWN, SALADIN).

Code words.

For East Coast Convoys allocated as follows:- F. S. 80 MERIT, F.N. 10 CASING, E.C. 66 YIELD. As from Friday 29/8 allocation of Convoy code words will be given in the weekly sailing forecast (C. in C. Rosyth 1541/23 to R.E.F. No. 270).

/O.G.71.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

O.G. 71. Ships from O.G.71 bound for Gibraltar are to be sailed as convenient independently from Lisbon keeping inside territorial waters. (D.T.D. 1716A/23 to Consul, Lisbon).
Ships torpedoed in O.G. 71, see U-boat Campaign.

S.C.39. At R/V with H.X. 142. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1834A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X. 142. Met as arranged with all ships. Calm weather except for two days strong westerly winds. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1835A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Fuelling Escorts at Sea. Proposed schemes at Southern R.V. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1927/23 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. S. A). See Lion Copy.

H.X. 143. Has arrived under Cdre. R.P. Galer, R.N.R. 72 ships, 50 British, 19 Allied, 3 neutral. 23 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S. 716, 23/8).

Cable Ships. Movements of following Cable Ships are to be reported by VESCA system irrespective of whether they are also reported by S.N.O. present. (list). D.T.D. 1938A/23 to C's in C. for N.C.S.O's and R.O's.

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy A/C sighting report. | Italian aircraft reports sighting Naval Force, Force 4, accompanying of unit at 0710Z. Message in all broadcasts by shore stations. (F.O.C.N.A. 0936A/23 to S.O. Force H. |
| P.A.C. Projectors. | Your 1341A/21. Four trawlers, six corvettes, six destroyers. (V.A.C.N.A., 1011A/23 to Admty.) |
| L'OBSTINE French Tug. | Arrival 22nd from Casablanca via Lisbon presumably to escort further craft to Casablanca. (R.O., Oporto, 1027/23 to M.E.W.) |
| French Convoys. | Passing Gibraltar 22/8. D.O.R. 23/8.) |
| Spanish ship. | Ref. Huelva 0945/22 Spanish CASTILLO GIBRALFARO loading Pyrites. Do you wish vessel intercepted? Request immediate reply. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1110/23 to Admty.)<br>Following from M.E.W. Your 1110/23 Huelva telegram not received. Intercept CASTILLO GIBRALFARO if any grounds for suspicion and report. (D.E.W.D. 1801A/23 to C.C.S.O. Gib.) |
| V.A. Willis | Admty. 1618B/6. Vice Adm. Willis E.T.A. Gibraltar a.m./26 in F/B of 204 Sqdn. and would like to confer with you on matters of mutual interest. (D.O.D. (F) 1242A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| EUGENIO-C. (Italian) | Sailing late tonight 23/8. (Bilbao 1248/23 to Admty.) |
| Fulmar in sea. | Fulmar down in sea estimated position 10 miles South of line joining 037° N., 000°E. and 038° N 002° E. (S.O. Force H, 1320/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)<br>F.O.C.N.A. 0926/23 and your 1320/23. Sunderland air borne 1350 1st searching Fulmar call sign M.9. (200 Group 1446A/23 to S.O. Force H.)<br>Your 1320/23 not to ARK ROYAL. Crew rescued. (F.O.C.N.A. 1867A/23 to S.O. Force H.) |
| BESSEL German. | Arrived Ferrol from Vigo 21/8, 2300, and entered dry dock 22/8. (Corunna, 1900/23 to Admty.) |
| -MAPLIN. | Your 1614/22. See Hurricanes should be rendered serviceable as soon as possible and held as reserves for MAPLIN who may require one or two within a week. (D.N.A.D. 2004A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) |

/CALEDONIEN.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic-Contd.

CALEDONIEN — For information. Reported French ship CALEDONIEN leaves Marseilles for Dakar on 25/8 with cargo of munitions, lorries and bridging equipment. B.3. (D.O.D. (F) 2308A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)

### South Atlantic

Suspicious Spanish Tankers. — Reports regarding tankers of Spanish Campas line throw considerable suspicion on activities of these vessels.
Tanker CAMPILO particularly suspect, is reported manned by Naval Personnel, and believed to have cruised in Atlantic in May, June and July for fuelling enemy ships.
Suggest tankers of this line if met be brought into British Ports for examination of tanks and shipping documents. (C. in C. A.W.I., 09440/23 to Admty.)

Speed and Zigzag. — Ref. A.M. 1954B/7/7/41 instruction No. 8. There is some doubt as to speeds given by Admty. in serial and convoy route signals. Does T.S. speed given allow for zigzag in both cases? (C. in C. S.A., 1119N/23 to Admty.) Reply 1838/25.

Escort Commitments — Your 1337/22. HUNTs must not be delayed at Freetown. EAGLE may be retained till 28th in accordance with your 1347/22. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1130A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Operation "Kedgeree" — Your 2201/22. My estimated P.C. and S. 040° 08', 019° 55', 070° 12 knots. Dense fog all day. On completion your search maintain position (?on) Port Bow of Convoy assuming his course and speed 270°, 11 knots from 1730Z/22 position. If fog lifts carry out daylight unit patrol p.m/23 and Vignot search tomorrow earlier Southwards from Convoy (?reported). AUSTRALIA will act similarly to Northwards. Indicate in advance when (?it will be)(corrupt group) proceed to Simonstown for fuel. (AUSTRALIA 1145Z/23 to HAWKINS)
All S.D.F. vessels engaged in operation "Kedgeree" return to harbour. (AUSTRALIA 1750Z/23 to BLAAUWBERG SOUTHERN BARRIER)

/W.S. 10.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

W.S.10. — Your 2223/13. Proposals for on carriage of personnel in C.M. 17 and C.M. 18. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1218B/23 to D.of S.T.) See Lion Copy.

CHAUCER — In view of SSS of 29/7 not cancelled have you any news of CHAUCER from Oban due Buenos Aires 18/8? (D.T.D. 1255A/23 to S.O.I. Montevideo)
Your 1255A/23 CHAUCER not arrived. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2156Z/23)

Ex-Italian Ships. — Am reliably informed that taking over of Italian ships by Argentine Govt. foreshadowed in today's press, will probably be fulfilled early next week. Manager of (as received could be 'British') firms have been asked to quote for repairs of Italian ships in Buenos Aires work being for account of Argentine Govt. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2146Z/23 to D.N.I.)

Mediterranean.

Russia — Information from Comdr. Wyburd (30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 0122/23) See Lion Copy.

Alexandria bombed. — Night 21/22/8. About 7 enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria. Bombs fell mainly in sea and Lake Mariut but some damaged electric Power Station Nasria and civilian property.

Derna bombed. — Night 21/22/8. 1 Wellington bombed Derna port. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1039/23)

Situation report 125. — My 2319/?21 report of attack on DUNERA entirely unfounded. COVENTRY returning to Suez.
(ii) Considerable air fighting over C.S. 7. and destroyers returning from Tobruk on 21st. Previously reported damage to NIZAM probably not serious. Store ship LESBOS has completed unloading at Tobruk despite heavy dive bombing attacks now returning to Alexandria.

/(iii) .....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean

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|---|---|
| Situation Report 125- Contd. | (iii) Syria. Convoy B. for repatriation of Vichy French has left (?Beirut).<br>(iv) Submarines. UNBEATEN scored one torpedo hit on convoy of 4 fast southbound liners (?at) 1830/19 in 037° 03' N., and 011° 58' E. result unknown. URGE attacked same convoy simultaneously but was sighted by aircraft and prevented from firing by heavy counter attacks. (C. in C. Med. 1101C/23 to Admty.etc.) |
| STUART | Tribute to her fine service on leaving Station (C. in C. Med., 1102C/23 to A.C.N.B.) |
| Forthcoming Italian Operation. | My 1920C/22. Operation probably Minelaying.<br>My 1345C/22. Tanker delayed. (Capt. S. 1. 1155C/23 to TETRARCH) |
| Enemy Convoy. | Your 1310A/21 to C. in C. Med. presumably same convoy attacked by Swordfish off Lampedusa night 17/18, consisted of 5 merchant vessels, one tanker, and 6 destroyers. (V.A.Malta 1215B/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| Gozo Island. | Remarks on Admty. 1354/21. (C. in C. Med. 1311C/23) See Lion Copy. |
| Defence of Bases. | Admty 1939A/21 and 1404A/16. It has been decided to proceed with the defences at T. now. Request you will comply. Reply to C. in C. Med's 1231C/19 and technical instructions will follow. (D. of L.D. 1329A/23 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N.)<br>Technical Instructions. (D. of L.D. 1330A/23) See Lion Copy. |
| ATLAS (German) | Arrived 22/8. (Valencia 1340/23 to M. of W.T.) |
| OTTO LEONHARDT (German) | Arrived 23/8. (Barcelona, T.H.I., 1540/23 to M. of W.T.) |
| Russia Black Sea. | My 1832C/22 (T.O.O. 2250/22) Fawkes to submarine base at Sevastopol, Ambrose to destroyer BORDRY. In additon they have office in Sevastopol Naval Hq. 2. Enemy shipping using Western seaboard of Black Sea with as yet little opposition even from air. Roumanian warships are being used operationally and Bulgarian torpedo boats as convoy escorts. 3. Russian shipping movements to eastwards of Sevastopol proceeding normally. 4. About one supply ship each night is entering Odessa. (Adm.Miles 1544/23 to Admty.) |

/Situation...

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean

Russia, Black Sea -Contd.

Situation at Odessa as received from C.N.S. by Adm. Miles today. Town being defended principally by Sailors with some Soldiers. Impression was that latter did not appreciate importance of its defence but that the Navy are determined to stay there. Sailors have been successful against Cavalry which delights them. Shore batteries now facing Inland. Support also being given from the sea and regular supplies arriving. C.N.S. considered that Germans should have captured the town by 22/8 to show credit balance on the operation. (30 Mission Moscow, 17290/23 to Admty.)

5 Blenheims attacked small convoy 1 small M/V 1 tug, 2 schooners, off Kerkenah. M/V of 1,000 tons direct hit 250lb. bomb penetrating superstructure and exploding on deck. 1 Schooner left listing. Decks machine-gunned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1745/23 amended 1600/24)

TETRARCH
TALISMAN

Leave patrol p.m./25 passing S. and E. 032° 45' 020° 00' for daylight R/C of Apollonia and Rasal Hill al Ancud thence through 033° 07' 025° 22' to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 05300/30 TALISMAN routed along parallel of 033° 35' to 019° 30' thence west of 019° 30' to arrive your area 26th. (Capt. S. 1. 17500/23 to TETRARCH)

Enemy report TALISMAN

Your 1427 and your 1445 (N.T. in W.R.) report immediately it is safe to do so, P.C. and S of enemy. (Capt. S.1. 18300/23 to TALISMAN)

Syrian Ports.

Following for Admiral Muselier from Commandant Jacquet. (begins) "Your 0056/19 understood. I am acting locally in consequence. I am obliged to correspond very often with you by Free French or R.N. (?W/T) signal. I beg you to dictate your important orders to me by second process. I confirm that Beyrut is used as main base, Tripoli and Latakia as secondary bases, the first more important. Terminal of pipe line destroyed by Vichy. Iraq petroleum company and British authorities not doing any repairs yet". (ends) (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1834C/23 to Admty.)

/UPHOLDER.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| UPHOLDER | Proceed with despatch to 038° 30' 012° 00'. Anticipate enemy heavy units are proceeding to westward through this position at 0030/24. (S.O.S. Malta 1855B/23 to UPHOLDER) |
| TRIUMPH<br>URSULA<br>UTMOST | Cancel recall signal and take up following positions. TRIUMPH on completion of operation tonight 038° 22' 015° 35' URSULA 037° 56' 015° 36' UTMOST 039° 07' 017° 20'. Enemy heavy unit(s) probably South of Sardinia dawn/24 anticipated returning to Taranto shortly. (S.O.S. Malta, 1925B/23 to UTMOST, UPHOLDER, TRIUMPH, URSULA) |
| ELIZABETH H.<br>FISSER.<br>(German) | Arrival 22nd at Sargunto. (Valencia, 2200/23 to M. of H.T.) |
| Situation<br>Report 126. | Western Desert. (?LESBOS) LESFASTOS damaged by near miss before leaving Tobruk unable to sail. Enemy supply ship sighted by TALISMAN in 033° 30' N., 024° 30' E. 1430/23 steering S.E. This ship also sighted and attacked by aircraft unsuccessfully and was later reported by TALISMAN to have turned northwards.<br>2. TORBAY has returned to Alexandria with 130 British and Allied troops evacuated from Crete. TORBAY also reports possible hit on escorted convoy off Benghazi at 1250/12 and sank large Italian schooner by demolition charge off Cape Matapan on 16/8. Request no mention of evacuation in press.<br>(C. in C. Med. 2343C/23.) |

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

TURBO — British tanker, 4782 tons, hit by A/C torpedo on 20/8, has reached Port Said under her own power.
(D.S. 716, 23/8.)

Suspicious Vessel. — My 1306/22 para. 2.
BARON ELPHINSTONE did not go through Gallandu Channel. Her position was erroneously reported.
(C. in C. E.I., 0832Z/23 to Admty.)

Monster Liners at Trincomalee. — N.B. Melbourne's 1244/21 and A.M. 1720/20/7.
1. When consideration is being given to refuge port for QUEEN ELIZABETH and QUEEN MARY request limitation of Trincomalee should be borne in mind.
2. Lack of space does not permit two monsters being berthed inside Trincomalee harbour without risk of their fouling each other. Risk is accepted during short visits for refuelling but entails tug standing by continuously.
3. The permanent presence even one of these ships would seriously reduce the value of Trincomalee as a naval base.
(C. in C. E.I.,1034Z/23 to Admty.)

DUPLEIX, COMPIEGNE (French) — Your 1034/21. N.E.I. authorities have detained DUPLEIX and are placing ship and cargo in Prize Court with a view to seizure in compensation for Dutch ships held in French North Africa. COMPIEGNE has returned to Saigon but Dutch will endeavour to seize her as further compensation should she sail for Madagascar. Please inform Governor Mauritius.
(D.E.W.D. 1156A/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Russian Mission. — Not arrived Mosul today 23/8.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 1955/23 to Air Ministry.)

Base Defences. — In Maldive Islands, (Gan Channel and Wilingli Channel), ref. Admty. 1329A/23 (see Mediterranean)
(D.T.M., 2219A/23 to C. in C. E.I.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

FUSWAMA (Italian) — Kobe arrival 22/8. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0201Z/23.)

COMMANDANT DORISE (French) — From intercepted correspondence expected to arrive Saigon 30/8 from Tamatave. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0237Z/23 to Admty.)

Japanese Ships. — Movements. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0453Z/23.)

Fuelling Base. — Proposed at a certain place. (D. of P., app. V.C.N.S., 1409A/23 to C. in C. China.) See Operations Volume. Reply. (C. in C. China, 0431/27.)

KOTA NOPAN sunk by raider 17/8. — Following from N.C.S. Colon by CZ M "1650Z/?17 KOTA NOPAN position 001° 22' S. 089° 10' W. sunk by raider." S.O.S. ended suddenly on third transmission. No message from or about crew. American Authorities informed. (C. in C. China, 1801Z/23, to Admty.)
KOTA NOPAN, Dutch, 7322 tons, Singapore to Panama Canal.
See also America and West Indies.

### America and West Indies.

Suspicious Ship, 15/8. — BRASTAGI reports sighting suspicious Japanese ship 15/8 in 003° 25' S. 090° 34' W. Description. Comment. Description similar to MONTEVIDEO MARU which sailed Buenos Aires 21/7 for Santos, not since reported. Possibly proceeded via Magellan Straits and may be intending to fuel Zorritos, Peru.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0151R/23 to ORION, Admty. etc.)

/DESPATCH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DESPATCH — Return to Jamaica forthwith.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/23, to DESPATCH.)
My 1001Q/23. Top up with fuel at Jamaica in readiness to transit canal. Indications of a Raider in the vicinity of Galapagos Island, and it is intended that you should establish patrol for a short period. Reply immediately by W/T whether your damage will affect this.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/23 to DESPATCH.)
Leave Jamaica a.m./24 transit canal on 26th.
2. Proceed thence to establish patrol on shipping routes in vicinity Galapagos Island object to cover shipping and intercept enemy surface raider believed to be operating in this vicinity.
3. Re intelligence.
4. Fuel at Talara when necessary.
5. Your future movements will be communicated in due course depending on fuelling arrangements and your relief by PRINCE HENRY.
N.S.O.I. Jamaica pass to H.M.S. DESPATCH.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2142Q/23 to DESPATCH.)

CARADOC — Proceed (? Bermuda) forthwith, fuelling at Trinidad if essential.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/23 to CARADOC.)

PRINCE ROBERT
PRINCE HENRY. — My 2251Q/22. In anticipation arrival PRINCE ROBERT at Esquimalt request PRINCE HENRY may be sailed as soon as possible to establish patrol in vicinity Galapagos Islands.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1041Q/23, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Comply with C. in C. A.W.I. 1041Q/23.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2204Z/23 to C.O.P.C. Esquimalt.)

Galapagos Patrol, fuelling in U.S.A. — Your 2052/22/4 to N.A. Washington. Patrol is being established in vicinity of Galapagos Islands in view of suspected raider activity. Request immediate action be taken to enable H.M. ships to fuel in U.S. ports without restriction.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/23 to Admty.)
S.O.(I) Callao reports U.S. Naval Attache Peru prepared request 15th Naval District Commander at Colon arrange fuel British Warship from U.S. Navy Tankers at sea near Galapagos.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1632R/23 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., DESPATCH.)

/LACONIA.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies. - Contd.

LACONIA — Your 1131P/22. Concur with your proposals. (D.O.D.(H) 1052A/23 to R.A.3.)

T.C.12B. — HAVELOCK and HARVESTER are to be detached from T.C.12B as requisite to refuel at St. Johns N.F. subsequently requiring (as received, ? returning) and escorting convoy to U.K. (C.C.N.F., 1154Z/23 to R.A.3.)

ORION to examine Galapagos. — Your 2251/22. Approved to use ORION. She is believed to have only 2 turrets serviceable and those in local control. Request you will consider passing one of your cruisers through to Pacific in view of raider threat. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1155A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 2251/22. E.T.A. East of Galapagos 1200Z/25. Only chart on board showing these Islands No.786, Cape Horn to Cape Corrientes. Have no aircraft. Present gun armament, no forward turrets, 2 after turrets in local control, 4 inch in local control. Where is KAIKOURA and what is her route? No shipping summary being received, world wide tables only held; this reported to N.O.I.C. Trinidad before sailing. It will be necessary to return to Balboa to refuel before proceeding to San Diego. (ORION, 2230Z/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

P.A.C. Projectors. — Your 1341A/21. Of ships of N.E.F. who have visited St. John's, READING only is fitted. (C.C.N.F., 1405Z/23 to Admty.)

FORTH — Your 1019A/21 not to C.C.N.F. Items (2) and (3) include the following. Proposed that FORTH remain at St. Johns until the departure of TRUANT and then proceed to New London (or other convenient port) to disembark all items mentioned in your 1019A/21 before proceeding to U.K. (FORTH, 1431Z/23 to F.O.S. Amended 1251Z/24.)

Germans in Mexico. — Mexico cancelled all exequaturs of German consulates as at 1/9. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1505R/23 to Admty.)

/KOTA NOPAN.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

KOTA NOPAN sunk 17/8 by raider.

Your (? 2552)/22 (2303/22 intended). Only details of message received are contained in Panama's 1601/22. ARDENVOHR reported to ORION by V/S. No earlier report as ship's speed only 12 knots and Master afraid to break wireless silence owing to close proximity of raider. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1525/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.) My 1525/23. Message received by ARDENVOHR was "Q Q Q Q PFLS (KOTA NOPAN) attacked 001° 22' S. 089° 10' W." Message repeated twice and broken off in middle of third repeat. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1735/23 to Admty.)

U.S. Task Forces.

Future movements. D.O.D.(F) 1616A/23 to C. in C. .A.W.I., etc.)

FORT LAMY. LUCIJANA.

Your 1091Q/4 and my 1801Q/12. Further trouble may be expected in FORT LAMY at Newhaven Port. Recommendations. Trouble in LUCIJANA purely private Balkans war so am recommending N.O.i/c Trinidad they should be given further chance not in Jugo-slavia ships. (CARADOC, 1705Q/13 (?23) to Admty.)

Communications.

Between ships etc. on one side of Atlantic and those on other side. Proposals. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1730A/23 to B.A.D. Washington.) See Lion Copy.

Ex-Enemy Ships in U.S. Service.

Following is list of ex-enemy ships sailing under U.S. flag. All but five have been renamed and list gives new names.
1. Danish. LOOKOUT JOHNSTOWN MONTROSE KINGMAN AZRA HALMA LAWRIN LOANTAKA ALCEDO MONTANA ARISTIDES VAGRANT DAYSTAR DEONATUS BUCHANAN SPOKANE SALVATOR CAVALCADE CRICAMOLA CHANT CALDERA BEN BRUSH SIR HUON FIRETHORN SNARK PINK STAR PONTIAC BOLD VENTURE WAR ADMIRAL DONERAIL MANUEL ALAN A. DALE JONNA SICILIEN TUNIS.
2. Italian. TYPHOON PLAUDIT REIGH COUNT MERIDIAN EXTARMINATOR, ELWOOD STONE STREET GALLANT FOX MARIA
3. German. STING.
4. Roumanian. MANGALIA.
A number of ships not yet allocated or renamed are not included but will follow in due course.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1909R/23 to Admty.)

/Pacific.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Pacific Routeing.

Your 1555R/16. Concur generally.
Request complete routes be passed to local British C.S.A. for Admiralty. Request amplification of area basis referred to.
Recommend the addition of widely dispersed Reference Positions for security reasons when diversion is required.
Consider Torres Strait should be included in closed Area.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1926/23 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Task Units.

Changes. (Spenavo, no T.O.O./23.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.8.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy O.G.71. — Oiler torpedoed. Blaze strongly illuminating Convoy.
(GURKHA, 0120A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ZINNIA. — H.M.S. ZINNIA sunk. Some survivors.
(GURKHA, 0530A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE OAK, CANTURA. ALDERGROVE. STORK. SPIND. — Regret three attacks on O.G.71 during the night. Ships torpedoed and sunk, EMPIRE OAK, and CANTURA in first attack, ALDERGROVE and STORK in ensuing attack, H.M.S. ZINNIA in third attack. In addition SPIND separated from convoy and sunk. 67 survivors follow. No contact made with enemy. 8 out of 14 ships left are for Portuguese Port.
(GURKHA 0730A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
O.G.71 should arrive position off Tagus at 2230A/23. Consider if present scale of attack continues that loss will be extreme during next night. GURKHA must leave convoy noon today to reach Gibraltar with fuel remaining. LANCE can remain until 2200A/23.
(GURKHA, 0807A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)

SPIND. — Norwegian S.S.SPIND gunned by U-Boat at 0600A. All crew picked up. Ship on fire, impossible to salve so sunk by gunfire. U-Boat not located Am rejoining convoy with CAMPANULA and BLUEBELL. CAMPANULA has 16 survivors from ZINNIA including Captain and First Lieut.
(BOREAS, 0957A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
Owing to shortage of fuel it may be necessary for WIVERN to leave O.G.71 P.M./24.
(WIVERN, 1140A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Report by V/S through Catalina or next occasion of breaking W/T silence, if earlier, present state of convoy O.G.71 with names of ships sunk other than those contained in GURKHA's 0730A/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1148A/23 to BLACKTHORN.)
Your 1148A/23 LEITH reported BATH, ALVA, CISCAR, AGUILA previously. 14 Ships, now present.
25 survivors from CISCAR aboard PETREL bound for Oporto.
(GURKHA, 1400A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Failure to contact U/B's. — GURKHA's 0730A/23. The fact that no contacts with U.boats were made during these three night attacks is disturbing. On arrival of escorts request you will interview C.O's., and report whether there were any new or special circumstances which may account for this.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1600A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S Sweep.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.8.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. Contd.

A/S. Sweep. A.M. 1536A/23. (N.T. in W.D.)
Escorts are to carry out an A/S sweep over an arc 320° to 260° from Cape Roca, escorts being detached as soon as convoy approaches territorial waters. Escorts should continue hunt until prudent limit of endurance, returning to Gibraltar to fuel. F.O.C.N.A., is requested to supply maximum air cooperation.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1632A/23, to BOREAS, escorts of O.G.71 etc.)
Your 1632A/23. WALLFLOWER and CAMPION have been sent to Gibraltar with injured and survivors. WIVERN, VIDETTE, LEITH carrying out (Admty. orders?) O.G.71 entering (from East ?).
(WIVERN, 2031A/23 to Admty.)
My 2031A/23. BOREAS and BLUEBELL joined sweep. CAMPANULA sent to Gibraltar with injured.
(WIVERN, 2145A/23 to Admty.)
E.T.A. off breakwater 1240Z/24. Have some defects requiring assistance of Dockyard welders. Boiler cleaning overdue.
(GURKHA, 2310Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

INGER. INGER torpedoed 058° 58' N., 007° 50' W., 2303/23.
(?LADY MADELEINE, 2320A/23, to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

0726Z/22. Following received from U.S. Naval Authorities. Inner air patrol of Task group 2.5 in 33° 45' N., 28° 36' W., at 0726Z/22 sighted submerged U-boat on Northerly course. (Ends.)
(D.C., 0141A/23, to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0238A/23 to N.A.Stn.)
Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/23.)

2005 G.M.T. Bearings at 2005 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 14 F.
(D.D.I.C. 2136A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

2120 G.M.T. Bearings at 2120 G.M.T. of Italian U Boat 34 D.
(D.D.I.C. 2249A/23.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

WOLSEY reports having sunk LL Trawler KOS XVI in collision off Hornsea.

A Russian submarine reports having penetrated Petsamo harbour and torpedoed a 2000 ton vessel alongside and a 5000 ton loaded ammunition ship entering the harbour.

Operations "Dervish", "Benedict"

Force M (DEVONSHIRE - C.S.1., SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS and 3 destroyers) will operate as close escort for Operations "Dervish" and "Benedict". The force is also covering mining operation S.N.70A.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft bombed Myggenaes Lighthouse (Faeroes) this afternoon. The W/T Station was damaged but is working intermittently.

BLACK SWAN escorting Convoy B.B.67 was bombed in the Milford Haven area at 2100 and had her tiller flat damaged; there are two U.X.Bs. on board, one of which BLACK SWAN reports cannot be removed without cutting her plating. Both bombs were successfully removed later.
The convoy suffered no damage.

Mining.

Danish S.S. SKAGERRAK was mined and sunk in the river Orwell this afternoon.

Mines were detonated in the Humber and Thames Estuary.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### South Atlantic.

A ship, apparently S.S. BRAJARA, reported being followed by a suspicious ship at 0355Z in 28° 20' S. 34° 24' E.

Operation "Cutting" (see 19/8)

LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by MILFORD left Freetown at 1630 today.

### Mediterranean.

Malta.

Two aircraft were over Malta last night and started small fires in the dockyard. Damage was insignificant.

Operation "Mincemeat"

The minelaying operation was completed at 0338B today. Force H demonstrated off Valencia.

Italian battle fleet at sea.

At 0810 today air patrols sighted 2 battleships and 13 or 14 destroyers 30 miles S.S.E. of Cape Spartivento, steering 240° and at 0828 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers 15 miles S.E. of the battle fleet, steering the same course. The two forces were both located again at 1700, when they were steering 140° and 70° respectively.
UPHOLDER, one of the 4 S/Ms ordered yesterday to the area secured a possible hit on the rear ship of 3 6-inch cruisers with 6 destroyers and 2 flying boats in 38° 30' N. 12° 0' E. but was prevented by counter attack from seeing the result.

P.33, P.32 overdue.

P.33 is overdue from patrol since 20/8 and must be considered lost.
P.32 is also overdue.

Libya & Western Desert.

10 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli dock and suspected petrol dump areas from 0001 to 0400 today. Three large fires visible 60 miles were caused in the dock area and a very large fire visible 135 miles in a supply dump area South of the town.

/During.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert. Contd.

During a shipping sweep in the Gulf of Sidra today Blenheims sank a schooner and an escort vessel; a second schooner left with a heavy list, probably sank later.

There was a heavy air raid by 10 aircraft on Mersa Matruh last night. Little damage was caused.

90 sorties were made by fighter aircraft today, to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

Suez Canal Area.

A tug and a 30 ton crane which the tug was towing were both damaged today by the explosion of a mine in Abadieh Bay, Suez. The area was swept without result and normal traffic was resumed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.8.41.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

W.A. Convoy Instructions. Western Approaches convoy instructions part 372 para.4. In view of new F.W. tactics, cancel second sentence and substitute "The A/C should only be launched if C.O. has good reason to believe approaching or shadowing A/C is hostile and that there is a reasonable chance of interception."
(C. in C.W.A.1004A/24.)

26th M.L.F. for Freetown. Request you will arrange for Motor Launches 209, 244, 251, 271, 277, 279, 281 and 289 forming the 26th M.L. Flotilla, now working up at Troon or equipping prior to proceeding there, to assemble at Londonderry by 12/9.
2. Motor Launches are to be sailed under their own power for Freetown with suitable escort details of which will be signalled later. Escort and Flotilla should be routed via Gibraltar and Bathurst.
(D.D.O.D.C. 1155A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

DISCOVERY II. Is required at Harwich. She should be sailed for Loch Ewe in convoy at the first convenient opportunity. From Loch Ewe she should be sailed in coastal convoy.
(D.O.D.H. 1221A/24.)

CAM Ships. It is understood instructions given at convoy conferences in Canada have sometimes led to C.A.M. ships closing down W/T watch and failing to read meteorological report. Request it may be made clear that C.A.M. ships should read such reports.
(C. in C.W.A. 1606A/24 to Adty.)

### Movements.

SHROPSHIRE. Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S. 1551A/24.)

LONDON. Request you will sail LONDON for Scapa on 26/8.
(V.A.2. 1723A/24 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

O.14. My 1057A/20 and F.O.(S)'s 2359A/23. After passing through position (C) you should R/V with drifter in 090° Bressay Light 15 miles at 0615A/27 for passage to Lerwick. You will leave Lerwick for Dundee escorted a.m. 28th.
(Capt. S.9. 1901A/24 to O.14.)

P.34. Sailed P.34 escorted LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S 3's 1615A/23.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1948A/24.)

/Task.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.41.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements. Contd.

Task Unit 1.1.3. SELFOSS (Icelandic.) MIKE VICTOR.

Following received from Opnav. SELFOSS with Task Unit 1.1.3, two Destroyers left Reykjavik at 2000 G.C.T./23. MIKE VICTOR is bound for New York via Louisburg and will follow the following course. The Task Unit will upon arrival at 55° W., proceed to Casco Bay.
(Spenavo 2100/24.)

ACHATES. (Mined 25/7.)

ACHATES in tow of Tug ASSURANCE escorted by TARTAR arrived 2243/24.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2323/24.)

### Operations.

Dover Patrols.

MGB's 43 (S.O.) 46 and S.2 will patrol between South Varne and East Varne Buoy during dark hours tonight to cover C.W.47 and act on R.D.F. reports from Dover W/T. The only other patrol at sea will be 2 trawlers on O.D. One.
(V.A.Dover 1035A/24.)

Operation DERVISH. ELECTRA.

Position F changed.
(C.S.1. 1306A/24 to ELECTRA.) See Operations Volume.

Force M.

Force M consists of DEVONSHIRE, SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, and 3 Destroyers. Will act as close Escort for Operations DERVISH and BENEDICT. Further movements.
(V.C.N.S. 1453A/24 to Ad.Miles.)
See Operations Volume.

Communications (V.A.2 1624A/24)

See Operations Volume.

A.M. 1956A/19. In the event of fog, request beacons may be in operation from 0700Z/27 until arrival of Force mentioned in A.M. 1549A/22, and from 0700Z/30 for DERVISH Convoy.
(D.S.D. 1709A/24 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)

Your 1214/23 para. three. Following from S.B.N.O. Murmansk to Admiralty. Repeats B.S.N.O., Murmansk 2121C/23.
(D.S.D. 1710A/24 to V.A.2.)

TIGRIS. One M/V. sunk on 17/8.

TIGRIS arrived. Estimates one torpedo hit M/V (? 3000 Tons.) at 0815C/17 in 70° 59' N., 26° 45' E. Ship sank in less than two minutes.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1510C/24.)

Petsamo 2 M/V's torpedoed.

Submarine MOIODKI type number 172 returned here from patrol off Petsamo to-day, having penetrated Petsamo harbour and torpedoed 2000 ton vessel alongside and 5,000 ton loaded ammunition ship entering Petsamo. Explosion later observed by Soviet signal station Ribachi Peninsula.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1522C/24.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escort. — Expect escort of 2 Beaufighters from dawn. (C. in C. Rosyth 0044/24 to CURACOA.) Aircraft delayed by weather, dense fog on coast. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/24 to CURACOA.)

Patrols. — STAND now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0156/24.) STAND in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2016/24.)

Archangel to U.K. Air Service. — X.715 24/8. My X.585 and X.586 22/8. Corrections to wave lengths. (Air Ministry 1200/24 to Britlistaf.)

S.B.R. — Ops/906 24/8. Cancel S.B.R. in areas 14 and 15 forthwith, and in area 13 from 0800/25. (H.Q.C.C. 1210/24.)

Firing of Recognition Cartridge. — Your X112 15/8. A/A Site. (Map reference) report seeing recognition signal at 2200/14/8 bearing 100 degs. No pilot or defence personnel of Coltishall saw any aircraft fire a cartridge recognition signal at that time, and neither Bury St. Edmunds nor Norwich Royal Observer Corps centres have any record of such a signal at that time. (H.Q.F.C.1915/24 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MORGAN JONES. damaged. — (A/P vessel) Attacked by enemy A/C. Sustained slight damage from near misses, and machine gun bullets. Has returned to harbour. No casualties. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0020/24.)

Unknown Ship. — AAAA signal heard 1045 G.M.T. Details. (Burnham Radio 1046/24, 1055/24.) (Port Patrick 1048/24.)(C. in C. Rosyth 1138/24 to Adty.)

BRABANT. (M/S Trawler) A/C destroyed. — Attacked at 2115/23 in 55° 43' N., 01° 36' W., by believed Dornier 17 flying straight towards ship, height 150 feet. Fire opened at 250 yards with single Hotchkiss on bridge and twin Lewis aft, and hits scored. Two bombs 4 feet high seen to drop close astern, exploded ten seconds later.

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.8.41. Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

BRABANT. (M/S Trawler) A/C destroyer.(Contd.)

Aircraft seen to skim water about 1 mile on starboard quarter. Hits claimed continuously by Port Hotchkiss and twin Lewis. BRABANT continued on course to carry out special sweep ordered.
(6) No serious damage to ship.
(7) VERDUN picked up 4 survivors from enemy aircraft at 2151/23 in 55° 48' 45" N., 01° 45'W. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1735/24.)

BLACK SWAN. damaged.

At 2100 German A/C flying low, approaching from westward, dropped bomb near BLACK SWAN's stern. No damage to convoy. Some damage to BLACK SWAN's tiller flat, which still contains two unexploded bombs, one of which is difficult to remove. All explosives in vicinity removed. After end of ship evacuated. BLACK SWAN proceeding independently in vicinity of convoy, steering by main engine.
(BLACK SWAN 2130A/24.)
My 2130A. Bombs weigh about 300 lbs. They cannot be removed until a hole is cut in ships side. Proceeding slowly in direction of the Smalls. AQUAMARINE, CAPE ARGONA standing by.
(BLACK SWAN 2155A/24.)

### Mining.

S.N.15.

R.A.M's 1229/22. It is hoped to be able to provide a HUNT and an A/A cruiser from ships working up at Scapa.
(V.A.2. 1047A/24.)

SKAGERRAK. (Danish collier, 1200 Tons.) sunk.

Struck Mine in River Orwell at about 1530A/24 and broke in two. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1857A/24.) (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1930/24.)

Spurn Point.

The following three mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O.Humber 2011A/24.)

Explosion on (?) 23/8.

Reference PD/01/24/8. Following additional information elicited from Capt. of K/10.
At 0929 in 51° 5' N., 5° 33' W. Rear Gunner reported explosion on water 600 yds. astern.. Capt. of A/C thinks a mine may have been detonated by A/C passing over. However height of A/C, which was 1000 ft., renders this explanation doubtful. SP of K/10 was 105 kts.
(Plymouth 2105/24.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

At (?)Svaerholthavet on 13 and 19/8. TIGRIS report.

Constant patrols A/S fitted vessels across (? Svaerholthavet.)
Following sighted at (? Svaerholthavet) 1000C/13 KARL GALSTER, MOWE Class destroyer Westbound and returned Eastbound 1400C escorting one M/V. At 0655C/19 KARL GALSTER and unknown destroyer with two patrol craft Westbound. At 1345 C BREMSE and (? presumably) same destroyer Eastbound escorting convoy. Air activity slight and only by Dornier 18. No minesweepers observed at (? Svaerholthavet) or Bredsund and no A/S activity latterly. This appears suitable operation for Force A with good chance of intercepting convoy. (B.S.N.O.Murmansk 1510C/24.)

Casualties & Defects.

RUBIS. (Damaged 22/8.)

At 2013, over S/M in 58° 35' N., 3° 20' E., course 220°, speed 7 knots. S/M slightly down by stern.
At 2030, 2 Dr. 1 A/A ship contacted S/M which hove to.
At 2045, S/M under way 255° 7 knots.
At 2053, in 57° 35' N., 3° 15' E., left S/M naval escort on same course and speed. Hudson still escorting. (A/C report.)
(Pitreavie A.C.H.Q., 0020/24.)
Detach LIGHTNING and LIVELY to Scapa as soon as you can spare them.
(V.A.2. 0955A/24 to CURACOA.)
Consider it advisable that you use your mine sweepers to sweep your force through gap A as it has not been swept for some time.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1618/24 to CURACOA.)
When clear of Gap A minesweepers and tug are to be detached to Aberdeen and Peterhead respectively if no longer required. WOLFHOUND is to escort RUBIS to Dundee and is then to return to Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1802/24 to CURACOA.)
As a precaution against acoustic mines you will be met at S.E. Tay Approach buoy at 0630 A/25 by tug HARECRAIG who will tow you to Dundee.
Bell Rock light arranged.
(Capt. S.9. 1913A/24 to RUBIS.)
Your 1901A/24. E.T.A. Lerwick 1400/26.
Submarine presence in zone C 2 and C 3 known to enemy since yesterday.
(C.14. 2240A/24 to Capt. S.9.)

/GLENDALOUGH...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.8.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. Contd.

GLENDALOUGH. Re: towing to Hull 25/8. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1316A/24.)

KOS.16. (L.L.Trawler) sunk. Arrival NEIL MACKAY at 1640 with survivors from KOS.16.
(F.O.Humber 1700A/24.)
NEIL MACKAY reports wreck of KOS. 16 in 53° 50' 15" N., 00° 35' 12" E.
(F.O.Humber 1828A/24.)
WOLSEY reports having been in collision with KOS XVI which subsequently sank.
(C. in C. Nore 2221A/24.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Escort Groups. O.G. and H.G. Convoys, when new cycle is in operation. Programme. (C. in C.W.A., 1209A/24.) See Lion Copy.

Tankers. E. Coast. During next few weeks there will be an increase in number of Tankers required to discharge on East Coast. In order to minimise delays, the present limit of 3 tankers per F.S. convoy may be increased to 5. Requested you will consider possibility of reinforcing air and surface escorts of convoys which include these tankers. 11 tankers ex HX 145 are expected to arrive Methil about 1/9. Of these 7 are bound Thames, 3 bound Humber and 1 bound Tyne.
(A.C.N.S(T) 1650A/24, to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Irish Sea, O.G.74. Considered circumstances are now favourable except during full moon period to route an occasional O.G. convoy through Irish Sea with strong A.A. escort. Propose this should be tried out as soon as possible after AUDACITY completes early September commencing with O.G.74 sailing 12/9. Suggested operations should be covered by offensive R.A.F. daylight sweep over Western Channel and N.W. France while convoy is within medium bomber striking range.
(C. in C.W.A., 2232A/24 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Shadowing Enemy.

If West of Cagliari can you shadow enemy 1600 to 2100.
(S.O. Force H., 1221/24 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Spanish and French Ships.

Gibraltar 24/8 0930 Spanish Minelayer NEPTUNO, Eastbound. 0900 French Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE 2 unidentified unarmed trawlers TOURS, PENERF, ILE RONESE all laden eastbound.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1445A/24 to Admty. etc.) My 1445A/24, unarmed trawlers were MONT CASSEL, AUGUSTE DENISE. PENERF deck cargo approx. 30 horses.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1825A/24 to Admty. etc.)

O.21 patrol.

Intend to sail Netherlands S/M O.21 P.M./27 for patrol in South Tyrrhenean Sea. Approx. programme Marittimo/Naples route P.M./31 to P.M./4 keeping North 039° N. when East of 012° E., coastal route North Naples 3 days, East coast Sardinia 2 days, (? West) coast Sardinia one day thence to arrive Gibraltar 15. S.O. S/M's. Malta's 1148B/24 received.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1640A/24, to C. in C. Med.)

M.S. DURHAM Air Search.

Ref. my A.822, 23/8, 1 Sunderland F.230 search for M/V DURHAM to E. Rescued missing Fulmar crew in 36.54 N. 00.31 E., 1700/23.
(200 Group, 1726/24.)
DURHAM, British, 10,893 tons, under Govt. charter, arrived at Gibraltar 24/8 from Malta in ballast after having been mined and seriously damaged at 0315/22 W. of Pantellaria.
(D.S. 718, 25/8.)
See also Mediterranean.

Operation "Mincemeat"

Attack on Cork woods and factories successful. Fires visible 75 miles. (? meat) of "Mincemeat" apparently unobserved.
2. Your 1241/23 received corrupt and not decyphered until 2145. Swordfish R/C p.m./24 failed to locate enemy West of Sardinia. No other information until receipt of V.A. Malta 1912 at 2030/24.
3. One JU.52 with German markings shot down East of Balearic Islands. 3 Combat Cants, 2 damaged but appeared rather tough. Demonstration off Valencia tomorrow Monday.
(S.O. Force H., 2114B/24 to Admty.)

/FARA ISLAY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic - Contd.

FARA, ISLAY — Your 1738A/20 and 2344A/23. Attention is called to A.M. 1250B/4. You should inform N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada for British Vice Consul Horta of estimated dates of arrival and quantities of fuel required for FARA and ISLAY. N.A. Lisbon is responsible only for acquainting Ambassador who will inform Portuguese Govt.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2204A/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

### South Atlantic.

Operation "Kedgeree" — My 2044Z/23. BLAAUWBERG now reports course of convoy when sighted was East. My suggestion in para.4 therefore seems to have been confirmed and that vessel named was not SAGITTAIRE.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0834Z/24 to C. in C. S.A.)
Operation "Kedgeree" was initiated in accordance with my 1123/17 and 2041/17. AUSTRALIA and HAWKINS as directed by AUSTRALIA sailed at 2320/18 and 0800/19 respectively to search either side of anticipated track of convoy.
F.O.I.C. Simonstown reported location of a French convoy by a Whaler in my 2030/22 but Whaler did not report course and later lost contact.
F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports further in his 2044/23 and 0834/24 repeated to you.
(C. in C. S.A., 2001N/24 to Admty.)
Your 1741/23. Situation is very obscure. As far as is known Cruisers have not been in contact. Whalers lost contact at 2115/22 and apparently turned to eastward and I have been unable to discover why owing to limited power of their D/T. At 1125Z/24, AUSTRALIA reported having been in dense fog all day and giving estimated position as 040.08 S. 019.55 E. Failure of Maryland A/C to come up to endurance expectations and lack of visibility has not helped, and they have sighted nothing. Present whereabouts of convoy and direction in which proceeding is unknown. Without further information from BLAAUWBERG as to sighting course of convoy which was not originally reported I feel there may be a possibility of that being an Eastbound. AUSTRALIA has now ordered Whalers to return to Harbour but Air Patrols to a depth of 450 miles will continue tomorrow and Monday as far as 15° E. AUSTRALIA's 1145Z/23 and 1750Z/23 refer.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2044Z/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

/CARNARVON....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Leave patrol and proceed to Capetown to arrive by 3/9.
(C. in C. S.A., 2137N/24.)

C.F.2. Capetown arrival 24/8 QUEEN OF BERMUDA and convoy C.F.2.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0920Z/24 to Admty.)

"Q" Report, (cancelled) Your 1219A/24 (N.T. in W.D.) Following received from Simonstown at 0318N begins:-
QQQQ 28.20 S. 34.24 E. BRIGARA (BRAJARA?) followed suspicious T.O.R. 0355Z (ends.)
(C. in C. S.A., 1226N/24 to Admty.)
Cancel my 0354/24, suspected raider.
(BRAJARA 0510/24, to Jacobs Natal Radio, Passed to Whitehall W/T. from Freetown W/T.)

M/S Groups. M/S Groups 156, 157 and 158 now on passage through your command are urgently required at their destination.
Request you will expedite progress and keep Admiralty informed.
(D.M.S. 1538A/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

CALABAR Have you any news of CALABAR from Capetown due 13/8?
(D.T.D. 1651A/24 to N.C.S.O. Lagos.)

Operation "Cutting" Your 2354/19 LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by MILFORD left Freetown for operation "Cutting" 1630/24.
(C. in C. S.A., 2311N/24 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

BARBARIGO (Italian) Report, believed reliable, states this ship of 5293 tons has been sunk. Possible this was the "8000 ton ship" claimed by Blenheims as sunk off Tripoli on 15/7.
(D.S. 717, 24/8.)

/DURHAM.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

DURHAM — Lack of reports from DURHAM at dark/22 of safe passage has caused me great anxiety. Request you inspect W/T log and ascertain if report was made as ordered.
(V.A. Malta, 0950B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Reply. (F.O.C.N.A. 1714/25.)
See also North Atlantic, 1726/24.

E-Boats, Black Sea. — Your 2240/22 passed by Admty. to C. in C. Med. Admty. have no confirmation of transportation of German E-boats to Black Sea. For your personal information, unlikely that they would have been so transported, or at any rate, operated on arrival, without our knowledge.
(D.N.I., 1028A/24 to Adm. Miles.)

Enemy Fleet. — One Battle Ship 2 Cruisers 6 Destroyers, P.C. and S. of Enemy are 038° 30' 012° 00' 215° 25 knots. Cruiser probably damaged.
(UPHOLDER, 1030B/24 to S.O.S. Malta.)
Maryland reports 1655, 2 battleships 14 destroyers, 038° 38' N. 009° 31' E. course 140° 15 knots. 1700, 4 cruisers 5 destroyers 038° 35' N. 009° 25' E. course 70° 15 knots. Not shadowing.
(V.A. Malta, 1912B/24 to S.O. Force H.)
(Com. S.1., 1957B/24 to S/Ms. Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

P.33, P.32 Overdue. — Regret to report P.33 is now overdue since 20/8 and must be considered lost. P.33 was on patrol off Tripoli (Africa). Also appears that P.32 is now overdue. Admty. 1151/20 and 1623/20 refer. Commander (S) 1 is requested to confirm. Books are being treated as compromised.
(C. in C. Med., 1034C/24 to Admty.)

Benghazi, Derna bombed, M/V attacked. — Night 22/23. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting large fires. 1 Wellington bombed Derna and gun position near Bomba day 23/8. Main effort during day directed to offensive R/C for enemy shipping to Tobruk. Marylands carried out offensive sweeps over a wide area. A merchant ship was attacked by a Blenheim 75 miles north of Tobruk, 1 of a stick of bombs falling close to vessel.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1049/24.)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy S/V. Sailing vessel carrying petroleum for 032° 07' 020° 04' awaiting escort 130 miles 237° from there.
(Capt. S.1., 1050C/24 to TETRARCH.)

French convoys. O U 63 29 (VI) numbers 6 26 33 passing 037° 03' (? 016°) 34' at (? 0100)/26 Messina at 2300/26 and 041° 35' 010° 00' at 2000/27 are not to be molested.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1117B/24 to S/Ms. Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

TAKU. TAKU leaves Malta p.m./25 routed from 038° 00' 011° 43' to arrive 038° 10' 009° 00' about 0100B/30, thence as directed by you.
(V.A. Malta, 1141B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

UPHOLDER Torpedoes expended. Intend to pass through Q.B.B.65 daylight/25. E.T.A. 0600/27 after coastal operation.
(UPHOLDER, 1145B/24 to S.O.S. Malta.)
Your 1145/24 to S.O. S/Ms. Malta acknowledged.
UPRIGHT making passage from position H to J daylight/25th. Attempt to communicate by S S T.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1320B/24 to UPHOLDER.)

URGE Intend URGE leave Malta p.m./25 for patrol in South Tyrrhenean Sea as follows.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1148B/24 to Capt. S.1., Capt. S.8.)

M.T.B's. Your 1517/3. Request details of shipment of motor torpedo boats from U.S.A.
(C. in C. Med., 12060/24 to Admty.)
Reply: 1819/25.

DUQUESNE Admty. 1647A/22. Use of W/T. Danger of traffic considered negligible.
(C. in C. Med., 12400/24 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

/UNBEATEN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNBEATEN URSULA.

UNBEATEN sails Malta p.m./24 to arrive 037° 56' 015° 36' about 0500B/26 keeping East 015° 40'. Leave patrol at 0001/26 keeping West of 015° 35' until south of Augusta to arrive at Malta by reverse of outward route before 2030B/27 or at 0700B/28.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1312B/24 to URSULA.)

MAURO CROCE (Italian)

Arrival 24th.
(Barcelona, T.H.I. 1345/24 to M. of W.T.)

UNIQUE R. of P.

UNIQUE reports at 0956/20 in 033° 03' 013° 03' sighted convoy of 4 Liners and escort of Navigatori Destroyers, Torpedo Boats and M.A.S. and 3 Cant Flying Boats. Concentrated salvo fired at 1019 resulting in 3 hits at running range of 650 yards on ESPERIA second ship of port wing column, counter attack light and ineffective. At 1618/20 in 033° 13' 012° 56' Cant Flying Boat attacked with 2 depth bombs, second shook S/M severely and slightly damaged O tank and forward fuel group. At 2015 in 033° 13' 012° 51' an anti-submarine group consisting of 1 GENERALE Destroyer 1 M.A.S. and 1 (auxiliary ?) hunted for half-hour, no D/C dropped but passed overhead 4 times, possibly sweeping. Hunt initiated by Destroyer sighting periscope.
(S.O.S. Malta, 1453B/24 to Capt. S.1.)

Syrian Ports.

Conversation between Minister of State and Gen. Catroux.
(C. in C. Med., 1546C/24 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Malta Raid.

Night 23/24, 2 aircraft over, incendiaries started small fires in dockyard, insignificant damage no casualties.

Enemy Fleet.

24/8 patrols sighted 0810 hours two Battleships 13 Destroyers 165° Cape Spartivento (Sardinia) 30 miles course 240° 12 knots. 0828 hours 4 cruisers 6 Destroyers 15 miles S.E. of above battleships same course speed 15 knots.

Tripoli bombed.

Night 23/24, 10 Wellingtons dropped 15 tons 448 lbs. bombs and one ton, 1344 lbs. incendiaries, Tripoli Dock and suspected petrol dump areas. Over target 0001 to 0400 hours. Enormous fire supply dump area south of town visible 135 miles. Three other big fires dock area visible 60 miles. Roads and buildings near harbour and Mellaha aerodrome machine-gunned from 800 feet.

/Schooner.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - Contd.

**Schooner and E/V sunk, schooner damaged.**

Day 24/8, 4 Blenheims shipping sweep gulf of Sidra, attacked 2 schooners and escort vessels each 800 tons off Nufilia. 1 Schooner and 1 escort vessel sunk. Second schooner hit left with heavy list probably sank later.
Ref. my I.54, Part 2, photos showed crippled M/V south Mole Spanish Quay now with back broken and sunk as result of Wellington attack night 21/22.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/24.)

**Enemy Shipping.**

S.O.(I) Istanbul 1655/1. VIRGINA S. (Greek G.R.T. 3885) is also included in Trieste-Istanbul service. She and three ships in above-quoted signal now at Trieste. BALCIC and VIRGINA S. ready for sailing about 21.8.41 and 24.8.41 respectively. CAPO ARMA discharged 21.8.41 and ALBA JULIA discharged 24.8.41. All graded B.2.
(D.N.I., 1640A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

**Black Sea Situation.**

Officially informed situation as follows. Enemy occupied territories West of Dnieper Kiev to Kherson, except Odessa, which though hard pressed is being still supplied from Sebastopol by about one ship daily. Minesweeping (?) and other vessels collected in Killa Estuary and fishing boats in Dniester Bay for purpose possibly of landing parties in (? Crimea). Increased activity at Bulgarian Aerodromes near Turkish Frontier and concentration of 200,000 German troops in this area. Attack through Turkey expected. Unofficially informed hull of Battleship LINKORA was blown up before evacuation of Nikolayev, this is contrary to official notification.
(L.O. Black Sea, 1828/24, to Adm. Miles.)

**RORQUAL.**

Establish patrol in area P, 037° 08' 020° 05' - 340° - 80 - 70. Lay mines as in my 17170/11 to S.O. S/Ms. Malta. Attention is called to Q.B. 40. You will probably be recalled about 7/9.
(Capt. S.1., 1840C/24 to RORQUAL.)

**DEUCALION.**

In view of uncertainty of Italian Fleet's future movements sailing of DEUCALION postponed until 26/8.
(V.A. Malta, 2140B/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - Contd.

**Enemy Fleet, instructions to S/M's.** Despite enemy heavy ships being at sea any worthwhile target should be attacked provided one salvo is retained.
(S.O.S., Malta, 2320B/24 to S/M's Malta Force, TRIUMPH.)

**Situation Report.** Enemy heavy forces reported at sea South of Sardinia today 24th. UPHOLDER reports one cruiser probably damaged. Western Desert. Heavy air raid on Mersa Matruh, one Officer wounded, believed little damage. Operation "Treacle" (? continues).
(C. in C. Med., 2336/24 to Admty.)

### East Indies.

**ALFIOS.** Overdue, Greek ALFIOS, left Bombay 8th for Aden.
(S.O.I. Colombo, 0400Z/24 to Admty.)
Cancelled, see 0654Z/25.

**Convoy Escorts.** Admty. 1934A/11. Accommodation at Colombo, etc.
(C. in C. E.I., 0740Z/24 to C. in C. China.)
See Lion Copy.

**B.M.8.** Departure CERES escorting B.M.8.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0930Z/24.)

**Port T.** Admty. 1329A/23. Intend to send MAURITIUS to Port T on about 30/8 with an army R/C party to obtain information required for landing, siting and installation of these guns.
(C. in C. E.I., 1054Z/24, to Admty.)

**Abadan fuelling.** Request your views as to practicability of bunkering at Abadan oil fired transports and storeships proceeding Basra.
(D.O.D.(F) 1253A/24 to C. in C. E.I.)
Cancelled, 1337/27.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

Port W. — Your 1939/21. C. in C. Far East has already arranged with Military C. in C. India to undertake anti-Malaria measures at Port W. Therefore do not propose to include anti-Malaria measures in preparatory work for the present. I intend proceeding with requisitioning of a base ship for Port W and prepare her for service with special attention to water supply.
(C. in C. China, 0335Z/24 to Admty.)

Convoy Escorts. — Admty. 1934/11. Proposals.
(C. in C. China, 0337Z/24 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

### America and West Indies.

ORION — Your 2230Z/23. Cancel my 2251Q/22, failing further report of raider today to north of Galapagos Island. Instructions for fuelling follow. Keep constant watch on 500 K/Cs.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0033Q/24 to ORION.)
Request immediate arrangements be made for ORION to refuel at Balboa about 27/8 as a special case pending action on my 1042Q/23.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0931Q/24 to B.A.D. Washington.)
Your 0931Q/24. This will probably be authorized. Further signal will be made a.m./25.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1925Z/24 to C. IN C. A.W.I.)

Warning to M/V's. — A raider is known to be operating in the vicinity of Galapagos Islands. Attention is called to Admty. Lettered Message F.S.
(Navy Com. Bermuda, 0937/24 to G.B.M.S.10.)

Routes to avoid Raider, Panama. — In view of raider activity presume you are giving ships as widely dispersed routes as possible when approaching Gulf of Panama.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1012Q/24 to N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.)

/DESPATCH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 24.8.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DESPATCH — Kingston departure DESPATCH in accordance with C. in C. A.W.I. 2142Q/23 (N.T. in W.R.) (Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1040R/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Fuelling, Galapagos Patrol. — S.O.(I) Kingston 1632R/23 being passed to you. This would be very acceptable if action requested in my 1042Q/23 is not agreeable. I would however prefer that ships should fuel in port as it is necessary for fresh provisions to be embarked from time to time. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/24 to B.A.D.)

Japanese Shipping. — Summary of Japanese shipping west coast Central and South America. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1537R/24 to ORION.)

T.C.12B. — Your 1154Z/23. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER being sailed by C.O.A.C. Halifax as necessary to arrive St. Johns N.F. for fuelling at 1500Z/26 and to join T.C.12B (? as in) my 1811P/23. (R.A.3., 1643P/24 to C.C.N.F.)

PRINCE HENRY — Left Esquimalt. Expects to enter area 10 P.M./28. (S.O.I. Esquimalt, 1923Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

O.G.71.

E.T.A. 1700 A/24. Have 34 survivors on board. Request accommodation and transport.
(CAMPANULA, 0100A/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)
E.T.A. 1600 A/24 CAMPION in company. CAMPION has 6 seriously injured, and WALLFLOWER two CAMPION and WALL-FLOWER have on board following survivors from AGUILA, CISCAR, ZINNIA, CLONLARA, ALVA and STORK.
(WALLFLOWER, 0930A/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1632A/23. Am proceeding to Gibraltar for fuel. It will be necessary for BOREAS to proceed at 1800. Estimate BLUEBELL can remain in area till a.m./26 remainder p.m./27.
(WIVERN, 1601A/24, to Admty.)
Your 1600/23. Preliminary reports from GURKHA and LANCE appear to indicate that not more than two submarines actually attacked O.G.71 on 22/23. Asdic conditions were excellent and attacks probably delivered at extreme range from bow or beam browning shots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1658A/24 to Admty.)
PETEREL arrived with following survivors of CISCAR.
U.K.Shipping Rep., Lisbon, 1740/24 to S.O.I., Gib.)
Your 2022A/24. Have left area due to shortage of fuel. BOREAS continuing search till daylight/25 when she will have to return for fuel.
(WIVERN, 2240A/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)

INGER.
(torpedoed 23/8.)

Have searched area for Submarine and survivors without result. Intend joining AYRSHIRE who is escorting convoy.
(LADY MADELEINE, 0300/24, to C. in C.W.A.)
LADY MADELEINE and AYRSHIRE are to return to area and continue search. Air cooperating. Ships in convoy proceed independently.
(C. in C.W.A., 0756A/24, to ships named.)
Following intercepted from LADY MADELEINE.
Intercepted Trawler LO FALKLAND ISLES at 1500, 058° 49' N., 006° 30' W., with 14 survivors from INGER. Captain reports 9 lost. Ship struck by 2 torpedoes and sank in 2 minutes. Am proceeding to Ardrossan. Survivors returning to Stornoway in Trawler. AYRSHIRE not in company.
(C. in C.W.A., 1607A/24 to Admty.)
Trawler LADYLOVE (L.O.167) arrived Stornoway 2100A/24 with 14 survivors from Norwegian INGER. One slightly injured. 9 lost including 2 British Army Gunners who joined ship at Newport, Mon. Remaining British Members of crew numbering three safe. Ship torpedoed at 1000A/23 in position 340° Butt of Lewis 40 miles.
(N.O.I.C.Stornoway 2144A/24 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2150/23. Following has been read. Addressed Liverpool W/T. SSBS. 59° 00' N., 7° 34' W. Submarine sighted 2150. (Port Patrick, 0118/24 to Whitehall W/T.) (S.S.BRITISH COLONY, 0227/24, to Whitehall W/T.)

1035. Am over two enemy submarines in position WMKT 4347.
(A/C duty S 1035/23 ? 24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
(W.D.Note. Position indecipherable.
? T.V.K.T. 4347 = 59.43 N., 13.13 W.)

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/24.)

1829. Ref. Admty., Message A.F. 38° 15' N., 09° 35' W., at 1829/24.
(Gibraltar W/T, 1947A/24.)
(F.O.C.N.A. 2022A/24 to WIVERN, LEITH.)

1120 G.C.T. Comtaskforce 3 reported a doubtful S/M contact at 01.00 S., 41.16 W., 1120 GCT today. A plane and destroyer search did not develop contact.
(Spenavo, 2107/24, to Admty.)

1929Z. By D/F at 1929Z/24, position of U-Boat, probably homeward bound, was approx., 47° 30' N., 8° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2117A/24 to TUNA, SEAWOLF etc.)

2014Z. By D/F at 2014Z/24 position of Italian U-boat, callsign 16 V, was within 60 miles of 44° 30'N., 12° 30' W. Same U-Boat transmitted a further message at 2016Z/24.
(D.D.I.C. 2156A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in 58.42 N., 12.37 W.
(A/C H/52 Sqn., to No. 15 Group H.Q. 0856/24.)
Details of attack by two 500 lb. 2 Secs Delay A/S bombs at 0855.
(R.A.F., Iceland 1740/24 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 60.40 N., 18.43 W.
(A/C duty N., 1010/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Following received from A/C. U-Boat sighted in 060° 40' N., 018° 43' W., attacked with depth charges, estimate 1 hit.
(N.O.I.C.Iceland 1259/24, to S and A., Orkneys and Shetlands etc.)
Am over enemy S/M in 61.52 N., 16.50W.
(A/C duty Q., 1352/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)

/Submarine.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C
Contd.

Submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked with bombs, dive, result unknown.
(A/C 1400/24 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Details of attack by two 500 lb. 1 Sec. A/S bombs at 1348 BST. Bombs exploded few feet to port of conning tower which was still above surface of water.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Iceland, 1930/24, to 15 Group.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Russians propose to establish a certain submarine patrol. (See Admiral Miles 1758/23).

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy O.N.(M) 10 reported being attacked at 2135 about 10 miles south of St. David's Head. No details are known.

LA MOQUEUSE was unsuccessfully attacked at 2134 near the South Bishop.

Mining.

S.N. 70 A. R.A.(M) reported this operation completed at 1209/25. (Minelaying East of Iceland (C))

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Faeroe Islands to St. Abbs Head, off Tynemouth and possibly in the Firth of Forth area.

M.L.195 was mined off the Humber at 0700 and was taken in tow by M.L. 197. Other mines were detonated off the Humber and in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

Italian Ships. An agreement was signed today between the Argentine and Italian Governments, under which the former purchases 8 ships, and has a call on a further 8 on condition that the Italian Government has the right of repurchase within 6 months of the end of the war.

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Operation 'Kedgeree'

The operation was abandoned at 1700Z today, the Vichy French Convoy not having been sighted. AUSTRALIA, and HAWKINS after refuelling at Simonstown, are proceeding to Durban.

Mediterranean.

The enemy battle fleet (see 24/8) was sighted again by air R/C at 0815 today in 38° 40' N., 9° 40' E. steering 210°. Evening air R/C failed to sight them.

Libya and Western Desert.

15th C.S. was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft at dusk today, whilst covering operation 'Treacle'.
Nine Wellingtons attacked Tripoli dock area from 0300 to 0345 today.

Fighter aircraft today made 62 sorties to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

East Indies.

Operation 'Countenance'

A combined operation was carried out today in the Persian Gulf, in connection with the entry of Imperial and Russian troops into Iran. There was some opposition by the Iranian forces.

By the evening, British forces were completely in control of the oil refinery at Abadan, which is undamaged. Down river, however, there are still some Iranian posts and guns; operations to clean them up and render the passage of the river safe will commence tomorrow.

Khorramshah and the Naval Barracks at Karun were occupied and the passage of the river secured between Basra and Abadan.

/Bandar.....

MOST SECRET.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Bandar Shahpur the terminal port of the Trans-Iranian Railway surrendered during the morning and our forces were in full occupation by the afternoon. Eight merchant ships were captured, all more or less damaged by sabotage, though most of them are repairable.

Iranian naval losses were the sloops PALANG and BABR sunk, 4 gunboats (which C. in C. E.I. hopes to be able to put into service), 1 depot ship, 2 tugs and a floating dock for 6,000 ton ships captured. Admiral Bayendor, C. in C. of the Iranian naval and military forces in this area was killed. A number of Germans and Italians were taken prisoners as well as many Iranian naval personnel.

There were a very few British naval casualties and some military casualties.

U-boat Campaign.

SOUTHERN PRINCE, torpedoed.

SOUTHERN PRINCE (Flag of R.A.M.) was torpedoed tonight whilst returning from minelaying operation S.N. 70 A, but reached port under her own power.

A/S sweeps by aircraft were carried out today, as far as weather permitted, in the N.W. Approaches.

At 0655 a Catalina from Iceland reported having secured two direct hits on a U-boat which was attacked by depth charges 240 miles S.E.of Reykjavik.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**SHROPSHIRE.** Your 1630/22. SHROPSHIRE cannot be taken in hand at Hebburn until completion of ARETHUSA. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0935/25 to Adty.)

**A/S Escort Ships without P.A.C. projectors.** Your 1341A/21. Eleven at Londonderry, Eleven at Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 1001A/25 to Adty.)

**17th and 86th. A/S Groups.** Consider the provision of escort of greater importance than local patrols. Propose 17th and 86th A/S Groups be employed accordingly and allocated to I.S.E.F. (C. in C. W.A., 1214A/25)

**EURYALUS for Mediterranean.** EURYALUS is to join the Mediterranean Fleet. 2. V.A. 2 is requested to state the date on which it is anticipated that she will be ready for service after having changed her propeller. (V.C.N.S., 1515A/25.)

**Lerwick as base for 22nd Motor Launch Flotilla.** Your 1855/23. Consider Lerwick suitable as a base during winter months. (A.C.O.S., 1317/25.)

**PEGASUS.** Admiralty's 1848B/19 July. PEGASUS is to be considered as available for resuming operational duties at three weeks notice. Composition of 804 Squadron is under review in the light of new routeing of Fighter Catapult Ships. (5th.S.L. 1530A/25.)

**Polish personnel from Russia to U.K.** You should see War Office telegrams 85669 Cypher 22/8 and 86020 Cypher (M.I.L.) 24/8 to No. 30 Military Mission, Moscow.
2. Request you will also afford assistance to Poles in collaboration with Military Mission. (V.C.N.S. 1656A/25 to Ad. Miles.)
Negotiations are now proceeding between the Polish and Soviet Governments for release and transport to U.K. of Polish personnel in EMPRESS OF CANADA and in ships of DERVISH.
2. If negotiations succeed the Chiefs of Staff have directed that the maximum possible numbers should be embarked in the following order of priority.
3. Admiral Miles has been informed and instructed to assist. (V.C.N.S. 1637/25 to V.A. 2.)

/EDENVALE .....

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy - contd.

EDENVALE. (Irish, 444 Tons.) — Left Lisbon 22/8 for Dublin without Navicerts. If encountered she is to be brought into U.K. Port. (C. in C. Plymouth 1746/25.)

Clyde. Labour Dispute. — A serious labour situation has come to a head during week-end. A number of members of Boilermakers Society on outside work in 4 constructional firms building T.L.C's went on strike on Thursday demanding that all men engaged on steel constructional work must be members of the Boilermakers Society. Every effort in conciliation has been under way. However, there is a serious danger of all members of the Boilermakers Society in the Clyde shipyards striking at a very early date in support. Such a step would rapidly paralyse all construction -and repairs on the Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1950A/25.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

Communication Secrecy. — For reasons of security very desirable to conceal fact that certain messages from you to Admiralty are subsequently rebroadcast to ships at sea. Procedure proposed. (D.S.D. 0037A/25 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Narvik S/M Patrol. — Admiralty welcome the proposal for the establishment of a Soviet submarine patrol in the Vest Fiord Narvik Approaches.
2. It is requested that limits of patrol area may be signalled in due course. (V.C.N.S. 1255A/25 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)

### Movements.

LONDON. — V.A.2's 1723/24. Intend to sail LONDON 1400A/26 for Scapa. E.T.A. 1130A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1128A/25.)

FARA. ISLAY NEALE. (A/S Trawlers.) — Sailed via Fayal. E.T.A. Fayal 1/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1218A/25.)

/BLANKNEY .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

BLANKNEY. STORK. — Will be required for special escort, sailing Greenock and Belfast respectively 27/8. Duration 7 days. (C. in C. W.A. 1257A/25 and 1906A/25 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

O.14. — Your 2240A/24. Drifter HARMATTAN will R/V with you in 090° Bressay Light 15 miles at 1400A/26th for passage to Lerwick. (Capt.S.9 1407A/25 to O.14.)

WOLSEY. — Sail at 0600/26 and proceed to Invergordon. Adjust speed as necessary to arrive by 1800/26. You are required for special escort duty P.M.26th to Lerwick, thence returning to Invergordon. On completion return independently to Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1749/25 to WOLSEY.)

TEVIOT BANK for Singapore. — A.M. 1036B/21. When ready to proceed abroad request you will sail TEVIOT BANK in an O.S. convoy to Freetown, proceeding thence independently to Singapore at best speed. (A.C.N.S. F. 1928A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

A/S Patrol. — A/S Patrol of following 10 Trawlers has been ordered on parallel of 55° 30' N. as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1240A/25) (Orders are in C. in C. W.A. 1211A/25, 1219A/25, 1221A/25.)

Operations GAUNTLET DERVISH. — Your 1709A/24 (Re Beacons). Arrangements made. Please inform C. in C. H.F. and V.A.2. (Ad. Miles, Moscow 1224C/25 to Adty.)
Your 1709A 24/8, 1122A 22/8, 1549A 22/8 para.3 and 1318A 25/8. Arrangements confirmed. Please inform Flag Officers concerned. (Ad. Miles, Moscow 1756C/25 to Adty.)
V.A.2 0004/24. Cancel my 1621C/21. Arrangements now made for Russian destroyer to R/V with convoy DERVISH in position Z at 0700 G.M.T./31. Please inform all concerned. (Ad. Miles 2021C/25 to Adty.)
Eastern limits of area in which British and Russian S/M's may operate is meridian 034° E. until convlusion of operation STRENGTH and is then extended to 037° E. (V.A.2 1227A/25 to S.O. Force A., C.S.1.)

/A/S Sweep ....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

A/S Sweep. Two motor launches will carry out an A/S sweep at visibility distance apart on a 135° course from Vestmann Island commencing 0600 tomorrow to a depth of 120 miles. (?search channel) 250 QQ for 30 miles. Then return Vestmann Island. (A.C.I.C. 2331/25.)

British Air Activity.

A/S Sweep. C. in C. W.A. 2154A/23. An A/S sweep is being carried out today by two Whitleys and 3 Wellingtons, by 4 Hudsons commencing 0500, and by 3 Northrops from 0900 to 1600, searching the following 3 areas respectively. (A.C.I.C. 0026/25.)
My 0026/25. Sweep postponed owing to weather. (A.C.I.C. 0557/25.)
My 0026/25. Sweep postponed until tomorrow. (A.C.I.C. 1324/25.)
My 0026/25 and 1324/25. A/S sweep will take place tomorrow. Whitleys and Wellingtons commence 0500Z, Hudsons and Northrops commence 0900Z. (A.C.I.C. 2259/25.)

Patrols. FATE IV now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0334/25.)

Portsmouth and Orkneys Sanctuaries. S.B.R. Institute Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0500/26 to 1000/26. Orkneys Sanctuary from 0700/26 to 1300/26. Cancel S.B.R's in Area 14 instituted by my Ops. 907/24/8 forthwith. (H.Q.C.C. 0950/25.)
Institute T.S.B.R. in Area 14 forthwith until further notice. (H.Q.C.C. 0951/25.)

A/C in ARGUS. Following reply to queries raised by British Air Mission Moscow has been made. Repeats Air Ministry 1445/23 to Britlistaf, Moscow. (D.O.D. H. 1016A/25 to V.A.2.)

Dropping of Recognition Signals. Following received by A/C from DOUGLAS. Begins - On 3 occasions last night Aircraft dropped recognition signals on convoy. Particularly request this to be stopped 2234/24. Ends. No British or American Aircraft from Iceland dropped these. Suggest however aircraft must fire recognition signals to avoid being fired on as on recent occasions. (A.C.I.C. 2333/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Zenit .....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| Zenit Patrol. | The Trondheim Zenit aircraft is flying in a North Westerly direction towards Jan Mayen Island today. (D.D.I.C. 1014A/25.) |
| Myggenaes Lighthouse. | Attacked by enemy aircraft at 1430A/24. 3 bombs dropped. Wireless station damaged but working intermittently. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1048/25.) |
| BLACK SWAN. (bombed 24/8.) | BLACK SWAN's 2130A/24. The two U.X.B's have been removed from BLACK SWAN. Vessel is being docked at Pembroke Dock tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1738/25.) |
| Convoy O.N.(M)10. | Convoy "Poker" is being attacked by enemy aircraft. (Plymouth W/T 2135/25.) |

Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| M.L.195. | M.L.195 mined in vicinity H.1 Buoy at 0700 today. Now in tow of M.L.197. (F.O. Humber 0805A/25.) |
| East Coast. | HOLDERNESS reports two mines exploded by S.A. gear as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1035A/25.) |
| Thames Estuary. | One magnetic mine detonated at 0225/25 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1129/25.) |
| S.N.70 A. | Completed. (R.A.M. 1209/25.) |
| Harwich. | One mine detonated at 1250 and one at 1251. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1751A/25.) |
| Spurn Point. | The following three mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1859A/25.) |
| Practice Lay. | WELSHMAN is to sail from Methil at 2200 today for Scapa, carrying out practice mine lay in Q.Z.S. 243 on passage. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1925/25.) |
| RUBIS. | At 0800A and 1402A/21 laid two groups of Mines off Stavanger. Details. (F.O.S. 2159A/25.) |

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.
GNEISENAU.

At 1740 GNEISENAU seen in usual dry dock, and adjoining dock appeared to be occupied. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1850/25.)

BLENHEIM destroyed.

Intercepted information dated 1/6/41 states Norwegian BLENHEIM, 1807 tons, blown up in North Norway in Porsanger Fjord. Was acting as a troop carrier and fire broke out. Grounded on an island, but 104 German soldiers, 4 girls, 2 pilots and 2 firemen died. Believed this refers to an attack in April or May 1940. (D.S. 718, 25/8.)

Casualties and Defects.

ERODONA.

Your 1844/21. Request you will arrange for ERODONA to be towed to Kirkwall whence arrangements will be made to tow to port of repair. SALVONIA should proceed to Cambeltown on completion of this duty. (C.C.R.T. 1113A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

RUBIS (Damaged 22/8.)

Remain with RUBIS until she enters the Tay. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/25 to WOLFHOUND.)
RUBIS arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1339A/25.)
RUBIS reports that at 1435A/21 she attacked two Finnish M/V's escorted by two trawlers. Two torpedoes fired estimated range 500 yards, explosions heard at 7 and 10 seconds after firing. Torpedo explosions severely damaged main batteries, curtailing use of auxiliary machinery for main engines. Considerable acid gas inside submarine kept majority of crew on upper deck during homeward passage. One Petty Officer was lost overboard. No German aircraft seen. (F.O.S. 2159A/25.)

COVERLEY.

COVERLEY unable to steam. Proposed to tow COVERLEY to Oban. Oban concurs. (WESTERN ISLES 1942A/25.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.9.
H.X.145.

Leave convoy forthwith and proceed to Londonderry at best speed to fuel. You will be required to leave P.M./26 to join H.X.145. On passage to Londonderry sweep along 56° 20' N. In view of Admty. 2057A/24. Cancel my 1946A/24. (Dispersal instructions for O.N.9) (C. in C. W.A. 1019A/25 to BEAGLE, SALISBURY.)

F.S.
Convoys etc.

Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1200/25.)
See Lion Copy.

Escorts.

Orders for Escort Groups. (C. in C. W.A. 1255A/25)
See Lion Copy.

H.X. 143.

Congratulations on bringing yet another convoy H.X.143 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 1412A/25 to Cdre. R.P. Galer, R.N.R.)

Balloons.

Balloons and Kites are not to be towed in outbound Ocean Convoys until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 1457A/25, W.A. Gen. Message No.176.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

A.M. 1755/18. On completion of loading DUCHESS OF ATHOLL and destroyer escort should remain at Clyde and await further orders. (V.C.N.S. 1635A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Iceland.

Request names of ships awaiting passage to U.K. They are not to be sailed pending provision of suitable escorts which will be arranged as soon as possible. (D.T.D. 1900A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET

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Monday

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic

| | |
|---|---|
| St. Vincent Patrol. | Departure to Patrol off Cape St. Vincent SPIREA at 1200/24, LANCE at 1030/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 1138A/25 to Admty.) |
| FARA ISLAY | Your 2204A/24. Request information date arrival Fayal. (N.A. Lisbon 1305/25 to Admty.) |
| FARADAY | Your 1303A/22. FARADAY is to be docked at expense of naval commitments so as to be ready to sail by end of September when it is expected another tug will be available. (Controller, 1537A/25 to C.S. Gibraltar) |
| Escort for S.L. 88 and tankers. | Intended to utilise A/S escort of slow section of W.S. 11 consisting of 2 Cutters and 1 Destroyer on their return voyage to U.K. for providing additional protection to an S.L. Convoy, probably S.L. 88 sailing on 24/9 for part of its voyage and subsequently to escort two tankers bound for Gibraltar* Two freighting tankers on Admty. service will be sailed from West Indies for Freetown in time to catch S.L. 88. These tankers and the above A/S escort are to break off to meet local escort from Gibraltar as arranged between C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.N.A. After the meet the former escort should rejoin S.L. 88 if endurance permits otherwise proceed to Gibraltar for fuel. (D.T.D. 1654A/25 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.) * Names of tankers SANDAR and VANJA (D.T.D., 1752A/28) |
| Catalina operations. O.G. 71. | My A.893,24/8, A/S patrol Catalina attacked U-Boat position 38.15 N., 09.55 W. at 1949. Believed unsuccessful. My A.883,22/8. First Catalina on O.G. 71 engaged two F.W. Condors around convoy at 0930. M.G. bullets punctured port float Catalina. Seceral hits registered on Condors no apparent results. (200 Group, 1710/25) |
| DURHAM (mined 22/8) | Your 0950B/24 not to Admiralty. Master reports he made following signal to V.P.T. at 2014 G.M.T./22 (begins) Through area have struck a mine between positions B,C, proceeded (ends) Atmospherics were bad. He did not consider it justifiable or safe to repeat this at 2200 as (a) Signal entailed 8 groups and repetition and considerable preamble. |

/b).....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

AVON VALE
ERIDGE.

Proceed at 1200/25 to St. Helena arriving A.M./30 and passing through (a) 5° 30' N. 15° 30' W. thence direct. After fuelling (? proceed) at best speed to Simonstown repeating (? reporting) E.T.A. before leaving St. Helena.
(C. in C. S.A., 0821N/25 to AVON VALE, ERIDGE.)

SURREY.

For SURREY. Cancel previous instructions and return to port from which you have just sailed.
(D.T.D. 1053Z/25 to G.B.M.S. 7 and 9.)

New
C. in C.

Admty. 1723A/1 and your 1005N/22. Following is approx. outward itinerary.
(D.O.D.(F) 1252A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Operation
"Kedgeree"

Your 2041N/17. Interception not effected. My position 039° 06' 014° 09'. 2070 tons fuel short. Am proceeding Durban in accordance with N.O.I/C. Simonstown 1610/25.
(AUSTRALIA, 1700Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

CONDE

For information. Reported that French ship CONDE which passed Gibraltar westbound on 22/8 en route from Marseilles to Dakar was loaded with munitions, explosives including aerial bombs and lorries. B.3.
(D.N.I., 1723A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Speed and
Zig-Zag.

Your 1119N/23.
Descriptive speed of Convoys (vide A.M. 0001/1/5/41 Sect.1 para.3) represents minimum speed of slowest ship in accordance with A.M. 1819/26/9/40. Sailing Telegram Speed of a particular Convoy refers to S. of A. in accordance with C.B. 04024(40) Sect.83 (4). Speeds of ships dispersed from Convoy are Declared Speeds for current voyage as agreed between N.C.S.O. and Master. Necessary adjustment of such speed for zig-zagging should therefore be made when plotting ships' positions according to area through which ships pass. Experience shows that speeds declared by Masters are usually under-estimates by half a knot to a knot of the speed likely to be matintained.
(D.T.D. 1838A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

ATLAS
German

Loading with pyrites for Savina 0028.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1950/25 to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| DURHAM (mined 22/8) Contd. | (b) Atmospherics were worse. (c) Distance from Malta had increased and if first signal was not received it was improbable that a further one would be. (d) Ship had not had safe passage. (e) Close proximity of ship to hostilities. (F.O.C.N.A., 1714A/25 to N.O.I.C. Malta.) Details of damage to DURHAM. (C.S. Gib., 1902A/25.) |
| EUGENIO C. | Leaves from Castro Urdialles late tonight Monday. Delay caused by iron ore shortage at (?); she has loaded 7,000 tons. (Consul, Bilbao, 1930/25 to Admty.) |
| WILD SWAN | Departure WILD SWAN to patrol off Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A., 2042A/25 to Admty.) |
| Operation "Mincemeat" | My 2114/24. Report on operation. (S.O. Force H., 2130A/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. Operation completed apparently undetected at 0338B/(?24). Prescribed rectangle is displaced 2.5 cables in a 160° direction and Southernmost line of mines projects from its S.W. corner 1.6 miles in a 250° direction. French colours and camouflage not challenged. Have no cause to think MANXMAN's presence in Mediterranean has become known to or suspected by French or Italians. (MANXMAN (?), 2301A/25 to S.O. Force H.) |
| O.G.71. | Comment on re-routeing within R/C range of enemy shore-based aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A., 2352A/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean

**Enemy Warship**

From D/F Italian warship call sign 4 C.Q. was in approx. 034° 50' N., 023° 00' E. at 1735 G.M.T./24. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0120C/25 to C. in C. Med., C.S. 7.)

**"Bosom" attacked.**

Enemy bombing. BOSOM JH8H 2024. (LATONA, 0620/25 to Alexandria W/T)
My 0620. Fighters have arrived. (LATONA 0638/25 to Alexandria W/T)
4 Beaufighters being sent to your assistance. Calls on 6000 K/cs. (Med. A/C, C 8 J, 0742/25 to AJAX, NEPTUNE, LATONA.)
BOSOM E.T.A. 1245. Gate 1330. Request S.E.O. may come on board AJAX on arrival. (7 C.S., 1003C/25 to R.A. Alexandria)

**Sollum, Bardia, Gambut bombed. Mersa Matruh bombed.**

Night 23/24. 4 Wellingtons bombed enemy camps in Sollum, Bardia, and Gambut Areas.
6 Albacores carried out offensive sweep for enemy shipping in Bardia harbour and approaches. No shipping located. 10 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Mersa Matruh. One Naval officer wounded.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032/25)

**Force I**

My 0735/25. Intend to sail (? WOLBOROUGH) at 2130 to R/V with BLADE at 0530/26 and remain in company to Alexandria.
(S.O. Force I, 1141C/25 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

**Vichy Convoy.**

My 1720C/12. Convoy of 5 ships including 2 tankers and Fr. Sloop Minesweeper ELAN escorted by SUS expected to leave Iskanderun 26th. T.O.O. 1241C/25. (C. in C. Med., 1253C/25 to Med. Fleet)
Does French repatriation convoy pass North or South of Corsica. (Capt. S.8. 1417A/25 to Capt. S. 1.) Reply: 1617/26.

**RORQUAL PERSEUS**

Proceed to establish Patrol as from 0600C/27 until further orders in following position. RORQUAL 036° 25' 021° 01'. PERSEUS 036° 25' 021° 19'. You are not to attack Submarines when patrolling in these positions. (Capt. S.1 1425C/25 to RORQUAL, PERSEUS)

**TALISMAN**

Watch northernmost approach to (?Benghazi) during daylight 28th. (Capt. S. 1. 1427C/25 to TALISMAN)

/MUZIO.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| MUZIO ATTENDOLO | Italian Cruiser, in Gulf of Athens 0100C/25. (Capt. S. 1. 1430C/25 to PERSEUS) |
| A/C attacks on Shipping. | Following account received from Air Ministry of method adopted by our aircraft may be useful to Russians in attacking shipping in Black Sea. (5th S.L. 1452A/25 to Adm.Miles, Moscow) |
| Enemy M/V's | P.C. and S. of enemy, 1 M/V 2000 tons, 2 M/V's 800 tons left Lampedusa harbour. (Med. A/C duty B. 1523B/25 to Hal Far)<br>1 M/V 11.55 E., 35.00 N. 30 JR 10. (A/C X Sqdn. 1615B/25 to Hal Far) |
| Turkey | Re air support for (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1641/25) See Lion Copy. Progress report on conversations. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1643/25) See Lion Copy. |
| Enemy Fleet | At0815, 2 battleship 4 cruisers large number of destroyers, P.C. and S. 038° 40' 009° 40' 210° 20. Evening R/C now out. (V.A. Malta 1727B/25 to Admty.)<br>My 1727B/25. Area Sardinia Galita Islands Marittimo searched and nothing sighted. Visibility extreme. Should be grateful for any information before sailing next ship. (V.A.Malta 1940B/25 to Admty.)<br>Enemy unit not located by afternoon R/C from Marittimo to South of Sardinia. They may be returning to base. UPRIGHT proceeding to 038° 27' 012° 40'. (S.O.S. Malta, 2110B/25 to S/M's Malta Force, TRIUMPH)<br>Your 1805C/25 (N.T. in W.D.) A.O.C. states he cannot provide air reconnaissance 26/8 but has already planned to locate and attack these ships at dawn/27. (V.A.Malta, 2140B/25 to C. in C. Med.) |
| M.T.B's | Your 1206/24. Since A.M. 1517/3 the 10 ex-American 70 feet M.T.B's have proved themselves wuite unsuitable for service anywhere. Effort is being made to rectify this but no information is yet available from U.S.A. as to prospects of success. Hoped to commence shipment of 20 77 foot ELCO boats late October at the rate of approx. 2 per week. (D.D.O.D.(C) 1819A/25 to C. in C. Med.) |

/NAIAD.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| NAIAD<br>air protection | Fighters are being sent to your assistance, Martlett 6 Maryland 1, 0650 SYSTEM 26th August LOOSE. (M.S.G. 9. 1830C/25 to NAIAD) |
| THRASHER<br>REGENT | Proceed through 032° 16' 029° 22' arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0530C/27. REGENT leaves Alexandria 1900C/26 routed through 031° 45' 028° 23' and 033° 46' 026° 40' to 035° 16' 016° 40' (Capt. S. 1. 1905C/25 to THRASHER) |
| URGE<br>TAKU<br>UPHOLDER | URGE and TAKU left Malta p.m./25 through 036° 30' 013° 40' to make passage H. to K. during daylight, URGE on 26th TAKU on 27th. Keep to North of line H. to Gozo. (S.O.S. Malta, 2102B/25 to UPHOLDER) |
| TALISMAN | My 1920C/22. Small number of minesweepers also expected to arrive about noon/27. (Capt. S.1. 2235C/25 to TALISMAN) |
| Situation Report No 128. | C. in C. Med. 2345C/25 See Lion Copy. |
| RAMB IV<br>Crew | My 1350/4/6. Admiralty 2015/13/6, my 1938/22/6 and Admty. 1429/1/7. Propose to repatriate the crew interned at Fayid of Italian Hospital ship RAMB IV subject to their giving undertaking that they will take no combatant part during period of hostilities. (C. in C. Med., 2355C/25 to Admty.) |
| Tripoli<br>bombed. | Night 24/25. 9 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli dock area in 3 waves from 0300 to 0345 hours. Total bombs dropped 30,750 pounds H.E. and 2160 pounds incendiaries. (H.Q., R.A.F, Malta no T.O.O./25) |

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

### Advance into Iran.

**Operation 'Countenance'.**

Abadan. Troops established on fore shore of refinery. Considerable opposition. PALANG sunk. Khorramshar. BABR sunk. 2 Gunboats captured. Little ? new progress ashore. Bandar Shahpur. 2 gunboats disposed of. Some ships including HOHENFELS and STURMFELS captured. Floating dock with (corrupt group) German.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0630Z/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

**Enemy Shipping. Iranian Gunboats and F.D.**

Your 0707/25 (N.T. in W.D.) Principal method of sabotage fire, only 2 ships are undamaged by it. 3 (?Italian) probably serviceable but want repairing. 2 German apparently serviceable. 2 beached and possibly salvageable, one on fire and about 2 turned turtle. 2 Iranian gunboats captured and one in use by me. Floating dock captured probably without any damage to machinery. Military (believed?) landed unopposed.
(S.O. Force B., 0800/25, S.N.O.P.G.)

**Bandar Shahpur.**

Bandar Shahpur has surrendered. N.O.I.C. Basra pass to Army addressees.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0801Z/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

**Communiques.**

Govt. of India intend to issue daily Press Communiques reporting progress of Persia operations. May I use my discretion in approving release of news of Naval co-operation?
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 1230A/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

**Situation.**

Persian Gulf situation report 1300 G.M.T./25.
Abadan. Troops established on foreshore of refinery, considerable opposition. Persian Escort Vessel PALANG sunk.
Khorramshar. Persian Escort Vessel BABR sunk, two gunboats captured. Little news progress ashore.
Bandarshapur. Port surrendered, two gunboats disposed of. Some ships including German HOHENFELS and STURMFELS captured, also floating dock apparently in good condition.
LAWRENCE is proceeding Bushire now with BARPETA in case they are needed for evacuation of British civilians. (C. in C. E.I., 1334Z/25 to Admty).

**YARRA.**

Proceed to Bandar Abbas with all despatch. Capture Italian Merchant Ship HILDA and be prepared evacuate British Nationals. (S.N.O.P.G. 1537Z/25 to YARRA).

/Situation.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

### Advance into Iran. - Contd.

**Situation.**

Abadan. We are completely in control of refinery which is undamaged. Some sniping on the outskirts. From Southern boundary of refinery down river there are still some Iranian posts and guns, so passage of river is not yet safe. Operations to clean this up will commence 26/8.
(2) Khorramshar. We have occupied town and everything West of it along Shatt-el-Arab. On South bank Karun we have occupied Naval Barracks.
Passage of river is safe between Basra and Abadan.
No organized resistance left in this area. Area between Khorramshar and Abadan will be cleared 26/8.
3. Persian naval losses are 2 sloops sunk, 4 gunboats 1 depot ship 2 tugs 1 floating dock for 6,000 ton ships captured. Admiral Bayendor killed. Our naval losses nil.
4. At Bandar Shahpur, we are in full occupation. Our captives are 7 of (?) 8 ships, 2 of which are undamaged and 5 repairable. 1 sunk. Enemy attempted to sabotage all by fire.
5. Prisoners include number of Germans and Italians at Bandar Shahpur and large number of Persian naval prisoners there and at Khorramshar.
6. Our naval casualties 1 officer and 3 ratings wounded. This (? does not) include Bandar Shahpur from where no figure yet available. Army casualties while not severe have been relatively numerous.
7. Basra W/T pass to General Iraq.
(S.N.O.P.G., 1545Z/25 to C. in C, E.I., Amended 0443Z/26).

**Axis Shipping.**

My 0800/25. Fuller investigation of state of ships follows: MARIENFELS, sabotaged gear could be replaced by 3 skilled men plus labourers in 5 days.
STURMFELS, as MARIENFELS but work will take 7 days.
HOHENFELS is beached, and very low in water. Has one valve chest removed but may not have received any other hull damage. If salved probably would want at least as long as STURMFELS to replace gear.
WILDENFELS, as MARIENFELS.
WEISSENFELS, probable total wreck.
BRONTE, 70% auxiliary machinery is smashed beyond repair. Boiler may be intact.
BARBARA, 50 % main machinery smashed beyond repair. Boiler may be intact.

/CABOTO H.P.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Advance into Iran. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Axis Shipping. - Contd. | CABOTO H.P. cylinder cracked, I.P. piston valve missing. Steering engine one cylinder blown off. One spring door missing. All Italian ships have bridge structure and midship accommodation completely gutted by fire. Hulls all ships except WEISSENFELS and possibly HOHENFELS are intact but will require survey after fires which have occured in all ships except MARIENFELS and WILDENFELS. All ships require water coal or oil. (S.O. Force B., 1605Z/25 to S.N.O.P.G.) |
| Air Report. | Daily operational Summary No. 1 up to 1800 hours L.S.T. 25/8/1941. 12 Blenheims 45 Sqdn. dropped 25,000 No. 1 pamphlets in persian on Kashan. No A.A. or air opposition. All returned safely. 1 Blenheim 45 Sqdrn. photo R/C Road Sari-Pul-Uhad (34° 27' N., 45° 52' E) to Karind (34° 17' N., 46° 15' E). Unfavourable weather prevented pamphlet operations by Blenheim 11 Sqdn. from Shaihah. 12 Blenheims 14 Sqdn of which 4 returned prior to reaching objective owing to engine trouble dropped 60,000 No. 1 pamphlets on Tehran. One A/C forced landed in Iraq near frontier owing engine trouble. Hurricanes 261 Sqdn. covering Army advance strafed 3 Hawker A/C on ground while running up at Ahwaz. 2 Troop carrying Valentias 31 Sqdn. crashed on landing Haft Kel. No casualties. Crews returned. Troop landing successful. Heavy inaccurate A.A. fire at Abadan, Khorramshahr and Ahwaz. (A.H.Q., Iraq, 1730/25 to Air Ministry). |
| Sinking of Persian Sloops. | S.N.O. P.G. 1545/25. I have called for a report from S.N.O. P.G. as to circumstances which led up to sinking of 2 Persian sloops. (C. in C. E.I., 2306Z/25 to Admty). |
| ALFIOS (Greek). | Cancel my 0400/24, arrived. (S.O.(I), Colombo, 0654Z/25 to Admty). |
| Diego Garcia Defences. | Re Admty 2331/19. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0911Z/25) See Operations Volume. |

/Port T.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Advance into Iran. - Contd.**

Port T. Admty 1329/23 and my 0934/24. I intend to despatch gun to port T as soon as personnel required for installation can be made available. Until accommodation ship arrives I intend to retain a Cruiser or A.M.C. at port T for communications, etc. and to assist generally with preparation of base. N.O.I.C. and base staff to be accommodated in cruiser or A.M.C. until arrival of accommodation ship. (C. in C. E.I., 1118Z/25 to Admty).
My 0502/17, not to Admty. Has it been possible to earmark a ship for port T yet? If not, I suggest in view of the decision to commence preparation of port T now, vide A.M.1329/23, that ship referred to in your 0335/24 having been allocated for this purpose. If you agree request she be sent to Colombo as soon as possible for fitting out.
(C. in C. E.I., 1122Z/25 to C. in C. China).
Admty 1330/23. Request to what extent East Indies resources will be called upon to meet requirements of M.N.B.D.O. at Port T. I propose to ask India to supply. Grateful if a M.N.B.D.O. Officer can be sent to Colombo as soon as possible to advise.
(C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/25 to C. in C. Med).
Reply: 1305/26

### America & West Indies.

PRINZ EUGEN. Colon passes unofficial U.S. report that rumour in German circles to effect that PRINZ EUGEN operating South Pacific. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0915R/25 to Admty etc).

FORT DE FRANCE, (French). Cleared Fort de France a.m./24 to load fuel at St. Thomas. She was in ballast.
(A.L.U.S.N.A., 1010/25 to Admty).
St. Thomas arrival? 25/8 French FORT DE FRANCE.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1207R/25 to Admty etc).

/"Q" Report.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

"Q" Report 19/8.

N.C.S.O. Panama reports HALIZONES heard Q Signal jammed at 2235Z/19 when in 005° 50' S., 091° 20' W. Position and call sign unintelligible but from strength of signal estimated 50 miles distant. Signal was jammed by powerful spark set transmitting British Call Signs.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1019Q/25 to Admty, ORION, DESPATCH).

ILEX.

My 1646R/19. Yard selected for ILEX is Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. (B.A.R.M., 1230R/25 to Admty).

ORION, DESPATCH.

My 0033Q/24. Leave patrol so as to arrive Balboa 28/8 refuel and proceed to refitting port as previously arranged. DESPATCH leaves Balboa for patrol off Galapagos Islands P.M./26.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1232Q/25 to ORION).
Your 0931Q/24 (ORION to refuel at Balbao). and my 1925Z/24, arrangements made.
(B.A.D., Washington, 1343Z/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Task Patrol.

August 28 Task Group 2.7 composed of NASHVILLE, LONG ISLAND and 3 destroyers, leaves Bermuda on patrol through 18 North 32-30 W, thence 22 N., 32-30 W., thence Hampton Roads on 11/9.
(A.L.U.S.N.A. London, 1435/25 to D.C., Admty).

FORTH, St. John's.

FORTH's 1431Z/23. Concur generally with this proposal. Very desirable that FORTH should remain at St. Johns until departure of TRUANT.
In view of early departure of submarines' depot ship from American waters it is even more important for efficient working up of future submarines after refit in U.S.A., that arrangements should be completed for this to be done from an American Base (F.O.S., 1716B/6/8 and Admty 2203A/11/8 refer) Torpedo stores from FORTH should then be deposited at the Base selected.
(F.O.S., 1439A/25 to Admty).

PORT HUON, suspicious signalling.

Br. PORT HUON reports 1052 10/8 in position 005. 07 S., 034.14 W., loud series of signals each approx. 10 seconds continuing 2½ minutes unintelligible due to jamming. 16/8 in position 008.29 N., 057.22 W., heard HPGL calling FPFY no message heard. This reported by W/T to C. in C. S.A., Comment: HPGL renamed HAKKO MARU last reported in Pacific. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1518R/25)

/Fuelling.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies. - Contd.

**Fuelling in U.S.A.** C. in C. A.W.I., (1042) Q/23. Embassy express opinion that approach to State Dept. is necessary and are ready to (? do so) if so instructed by Foreign Office. (B.A.D., 1751R/25 to Admty).

**Raider precautions.** In view of Raider activity in Eastern Pacific, request personal attention of Masters of Ships fitted with high frequency be called to great importance of complying with Admiralty letter message F.S. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1832Q/25 to A.I.G., 127 etc).

**RODNEY** Your 1524A/21. Intended dates to leave Bermuda and arrive Gibraltar. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/25 to Admty).

**Tankers for Iceland.** At about 1525/26. Task Unit 1.1.6. consisting of 4 destroyers from Argentia will R/V in 46° N., and 55°W with 3 tankers and will escort the ships to Iceland. (A.L.U.S.N.A., London, 2230/25 to D.C. Admty) Names of tankers: 0825/26.

### Australia and New Zealand.

**MONTEVIDEO MARU, suspected raider.** Your 0151R/23. From special intelligence report MONTEVIDEO MARU reported being closed and spoken by a Foreign Auxiliary Cruiser on 6/8 in 29° 02' S S., 114° 29' W. (A.C.N.B., 0647Z/25 to S.O.(I) Kingston).
O.I.C. Comment. S.O.(I) Kingston 0151R/23 reported the sighting on 15/8 by BRASTAGI of a vessel resembling the MONTEVIDEO MARU in 003° 25' S., 090° 34' W., MONTEVIDEO MARU's position on 6/8 makes it appear unlikely that she was the vessel sighted -on 15/8 which may possibly have been the Auxiliary Cruiser which spoke to MONTEVIDEO MARU on 6/8 and attacked the KOTA NOPAN off the Galapagos on 17/8. If this is so, the raider off the Galapagos may be 'A' of Raider Supplement to W/R No. 64.
A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 0647Z/25. This was almost certainly PRINCE ROBERT. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1159Q/25 to A.C.N.B.)

/Routes to.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Routes to avoid raiders.

Your 1012Q/24 - After passing vicinity Easter Island intend routeing (A) all large fast vessels to W. and N., of Galapagos Islands (B) Remaining vessels widely dispersed between South American coast and Galapagos Islands.
(N.Z.N.B., 0950M/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1012Q/24. This is being done.
(A.C.N.B., 1153Z/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Ships and W/T.

Your 0842Z/20. U.S. Navy Dept. has requested Maritime Commission to issue instructions concerning W/T silence in general agreement with policy for British & Allied ships. U.S. Merchant vessels at sea and in foreign ports have been warned in similar sense by signal from Navy Dept.
(D.T.D., 1328A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

O.G. 71 (attacked 23/8)

Search unsuccessful. My position 0630/25 (?220°) Cape. St. Vincent 5. E.T.A. Gate 2000/25 request Dockyard crane berth. Survivors from SPIND, Master 5 officers 18 crew, 1 naval rating, EMPIRE OAK Master 2 officers 2 crew, ALDERGROVE 4 crew, ALVA 2 officers 2 crew 1 naval rating. 1 cot case, remainder fit. (BOREAS, 0700A/25 to F.O.C.N.A).
Arrivals BOREAS, WIVERN with survivors. Details follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 1930A/25 to Admty. C. in C. W.A).
Can following statement be issued by Reuter for Portuguese in view of strong German propaganda about recent convoy attack. A German communique has stated that 25 ships of a British convoy have been destroyed off Portuguese coast by enemy action. It is officially stated, in fact, the maximum number of ships in this convoy was less than total sinkings claimed by Germans. 14 ships of convoy reached the Tagus safely, but fate of one or two is still uncertain. Total tonnage of convoy was less than 30% of sinkings claimed by the Germans. (N.A. Lisbon, 1835/25 to Admty.) Reply: 0050/26.

MACON (torpedoed 24/7)

British CLAN MACPHERSON has landed 27 survivors of British MACON torpedoed on 24/7 in 32° 20' N. 26° 12' W. Chief Officer and one fireman killed. Master and 20 members of crew in No. 1 lifeboat parted company with object of making Azores for assistance, but fate unknown. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1034B/25 to Admty.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE.

H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE torpedoed, proceeding slowly, my position is 062° 55' N. 009° 55' W. (S.O. 1st Minelaying Squadron 2356A/25 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1914/24. By D/F at 1914/24 position of Italian U-Boat call sign 16 V was within 60 miles of 044° 30' N. 012° 30' W. Same U-Boat transmitted a further message at 2016/24. (F.O.C.N.A. 0033A/25 to N.A. Stn.)

0755 - 1248/24. Form Orange. ICE/02/25/8. The three Whitleys and three Wellingtons on A/S sweep from Limavady to Iceland report as follows Q/502 sighted U/Boat in 61.52 N., 16.50 W. at 1248 (see ICE/BS4/24/8). S/502 sighted 2 U/Boats 59.43 N., 13.16 W., at 0927 (see ICE/BS3/24/8). H/502 sighted U/Boat 58.42 N., 12.37 W. at 0755 (see ICE/BS2/24/8). N/221 sighted U/Boat at 0900 hours 60.40 N., 18.43 W., (see ICE/BS1/24/8.) F. and R./221, nothing seen. (R.A.F. Iceland 0105/25 to H.Q.C.C).

0158. One Enemy S/M on surface bearing 330° distance 1 mile Course 290°. My position 146 37° N. 9° W. 31 based on a fix at 0100. (WILDSWAN 0158/25 to Gib. W/T).
My 0158A. S/M was detected by R.D.F. and sighted by one officer. It dived and doubtful Asdic contact was obtained but quickly lost. Have searched the area with Asdic and Star Shell for three hours. Owing to shortage of fuel am proceeding to Gibraltar.
(WILD SWAN, 0513A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0525Z. By D/F at 0525Z/25, position of Italian U-boat call sign 34D, was approx. 44° 30' N. 10° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0710A/25 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

O.S.4. To avoid U-Boats proceed direct to position C, omitting B. WALKER Pass to LULWORTH. (C. in C. W.A. 0715A/25 to Escorts of O.S.4.)

S.L. 83. To avoid U/Boats steer forthwith for splitting position. (C. in C. W.A. 0720A/25 to Escorts of S.L. 83).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1442A/25).

/1535A.....

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Submarines Reported-Contd.

1535A. At 1535A/25 in 57° 43' 20" N. 05° 48' W. S/M reported by Postman, Port Henderson. Sighted believed submerging. Graded C.5. A/S Trawler investigating. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1551A/25 to A.C.W.A.).
My 1551A/25. A/S Trawler has investigated with negative result. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 2341/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

Am investigating suspicious object possible periscope. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge in 54.18 N., 5.12 W.
(A/C 1712/25 to 15 Group).

1851A Proceed with despatch to search for suspicious object possibly periscope reported in 54° 18' N. 05° 12' W. If no results obtained by 0900A/26 abandon search and return Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1851A/25 to SENATEUR DUHAMEL).
My 1851A/25. Return to harbour forthwith and anchor South of C. Line. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2230A/25 to SENATEUR DUHAMEL).

1815 G.M.T. By D/F at 1815 G.M.T. enemy U/B in about 51° N. 15° 30' W. probably Northward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2008A/25).

### Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy S/M in 61.42 N., 15.40 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 2 hits. (A/C call sign 9AMJ 0655/25 to Aldergrove.)

By VASCAMA. 1 S/M bearing 193° 3 miles course 090°. My position 329 61° N., 15° W. 19. (VASCAMA, 0819A/25 to Scapa W/T).
U-Boat has dived. In contact.
(VASCAMA, 0835A/25 to S.O.N.T).
My position 061° 13' N. 015° 25' W., have dropped 2 patterns, oil on the surface.
(VASCAMA 0900/25 to S.O.N.T).

/Contact.....

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Submarines Attacked.

By VASCAMA -Contd.

Contact lost. Large quantity crude oil on surface. (VASCAMA, 1100A/25 to S.O.N.T.)
Estimated position 061° 13' N. 015° 18' W. From 2222/24. Contact not recovered. (VASCAMA 1215A/25 to S.O.N.T.).
My 0819. First warned of U-boat from Catalina A/C. Aircraft now departed to base. (VASCAMA 1225A/25 to S.O.N.T.).
NORTHERN FOAM and NORTHERN GIFT in company. (VASCAMA 1415A/25 to S.O.N.T.)
Large quantity of oil coming to surface in vicinity of attack. (VASCAMA, 1611A/25 to S.O.N.T.)
Oil welling freely. No contact. (VASCAMA 1635A/25 to S.O.N.T.)
My position is 061° 39' N. 015° 47' W., in company KINGSTON AGATE. Have swept 120° 20 miles width 6 miles now sweeping 210° Hudson A/C reports no trace of U-Boat. (VISENDA 1745A/25 to S.O.N.T.)
Contact unconfirmed dropped pattern. (VASCAMA, 1835A/25 to S.O.N.T.) My 1835. Contact not recovered. (VASCAMA, 2016A/25 to S.O.N.T.)

By A/C.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate unhit 62.14 N., 17.24 W. (A/C "Y" 2, 1309/25 to Reykjavik W/T).
Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course indicated 290 VN VIS I. (A/C "Y" 2 1315/25 to Reykjavik).
Hudson sighted and attacked U-Boat 62.14 N., 17.44 W. at 1309 G.M.T. (R.A.F. Iceland 1345/25 to 15 Group).
Attack by A/C in 61° 18' N. 15° 20' W. No damage seen. (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland 2027/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

By ST. LOMAN.

At 1335 in 057° 50' N. 013° 28' W. picked up firm and promising contact, hydrophone effected. Attacked at 1413 after stern chase on steady bearing 255° at average speed of 10 knots. Contact not regained after attack nor any conclusive evidence of destruction. Course and speed 239° 10 knots. (ST. LOMAN 1430/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen. The Military Governor of Spitzbergen (R.N.N.Lieut.) reports that he has captured 3 cargo ships and 3 smaller vessels. He asks for supplies and for an escort to take away the ships.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims of Bomber Command today hit and set on fire 3,000 - 4,000 ton merchant ship in a convoy of 12, 26 miles north of Norderney.

A convoy of 20 ships was attacked off Ijmuiden. A ship of 7,000 - 8,000 tons was sunk, and 4 ships of from 2,000 to 5,000 tons were hit.

Eight reporting vessels were attacked 23 miles north of Ijmuiden; one was sunk and another was hit.

Seven minesweepers were attacked by aircraft of Fighter Command off Calais; one was left on fire and 2 smoking. Trawlers were attacked in Calais harbour, one being hit.

Mining.

Milford Haven was closed at 2337A today, owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft.

Two mines of an old controlled minefield were exploded off Dundee. M/S trawler SOUTHERN FIELD was damaged.

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SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation 'Mincemeat'

S.O. Force H., in NELSON with ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 5 destroyers returned to Gibraltar at 1508A today.

Mediterranean.

6 S/Ms are to be sent to reinforce the Mediterranean.

2 Blenheims today claimed to have sunk a 4,000 ton merchant ship N.E. of Kerkenah. Later, it became known that the ship (? S.S. ARTA) was already badly damaged and abandoned.

Libya and Western Desert.

9 Wellingtons last night dropped 31,750 lbs. of bombs and 1,920 lbs of incendiaries on Tripoli harbour and suspected dumps. 5 Wellingtons bombed railway sidings in Benghazi harbour. 4 Naval aircraft bombed Bardia harbour and obtained 3 hits on one ship and one hit on a second ship.

Egypt and Suez Canal.

There was an air raid on Alexandria and Aboukir early this morning. No naval damage is reported and no important damage occurred.

It is considered that no mines remain in the Canal; no sweeping has been carried out since 21/8.

Italian Cruiser torpedoed.

At 0700 today TRIUMPH attacked a force of one battleship, 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers entering the Straits of Messina from the northward and obtained a possible hit on a cruiser. British prisoners from Syria being returned from Italy whither General Dentz had treacherously transferred them in contravention of the Armistice terms, reported seeing an Italian Cruiser of the POLA class being beached near Messina a.m. today.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation 'Mopup' — S.N.O. Persian Gulf reports this operation (occupation of Khazalabad) completed and that there are now no Persian troops left on Abadan Island.

U-Boat Campaign.

A Soviet merchant vessel is reported to have been torpedoed today near 69° 30' N., 35° E.

Convoy O.S.4 — This convoy was attacked late tonight and 2 ships were torpedoed. (See 27/8).

N.W. Approaches. — Reports are considered to give evidence of the presence of substantial numbers of U-boats in the area bounded by Malin Head; Barra Head, 60° 10°, South coast of Iceland (C), 60 ° 20°, 55° 15°, Achill Head.

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Manning.**

The First Sea Lord will preside over a meeting in Admiralty at 1600/29 which you are requested to attend. Agenda.
1. Statement on the present and future manning position.
2. The necessity consequent on (1) for a review of the numbers of vessels employed in coastal forces, auxiliary patrol, miscellaneous craft, and small vessels pools, and also for a review of base staffs.
(1st S.L., 1120A/26 to C'sin C., etc.)

**Reports by S.A. Destroyers.**

Destroyers fitted with S.A. gear are not normally to break wireless silence to report the detonation of a ground mine.
2. Exception may be made at C.O's discretion if the numbers and position of such mines indicate a heavy lay which might constitute a danger to shipping.
3. On return to harbour, Admiralty should be informed by signal as follows.
(D.M.S., 1939A/26.)

**Clyde Labour Dispute.**

My 1930A/25. A Meeting was held this afternoon and the men resume work tomorrow morning. The risk of an early stoppage of boilermakers has not yet abated but discussions are proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2201A/26.)

**RIPLEY.**

Anticipate that RIPLEY will arrive in U.K. from escort duty about 1/9. Request arrangements for ship to refit in U.K. and that C.C.N.F. be instructed to detail another destroyer to refit in U.S.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 2305A/26 to Admty.)

### Movements.

**Task Unit 1.1.3. SELFOSS. MIKE VICTOR.**

Following received, begins. Repeats Spenavo 2100/24.
(Admty. 0300A/26 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., R.A.3 B.S.)

**CURACOA.**

Your 1304/25. Minesweepers not used owing to thick fog at time of receipt of your 1618/24. Following positions passed through. Front covered about one mile. CURACOA used same route for outward passage.
(CURACOA, 0831/26.)

/AFD.4.....

MOST SECRET

25.8.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### U-Boat Campaign.

SOUTHERN PRINCE torpedoed.

SOUTHERN PRINCE (Minelayer) was torpedoed tonight whilst returning from minelaying operation S.N.70A.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### U-Boat Campaign.

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUTHERN PRINCE torpedoed. | SOUTHERN PRINCE (Minelayer) was torpedoed tonight whilst returning from minelaying operation S.N.70A. |

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 26.8.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

AFD.4. Arrived in tow of tugs FREEBOOTER, SUPERMAN, and EMPIRE HENCHMAN escorted by POZARICA and BLANKNEY. Oropesa Sweepers detached to Ardrossan.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1048A/26.)

L.27. Intend to sail L.27 escorted by ALECTO at 0600A/27 for Rothesay. E.T.A. 1830A.
(WESTERN ISLES, 1310A/26.)

MINERVE. Passes Bell Rock 1530A/26 escorted by CUTTY SARK to 061° N. 000° 00'. Route thence to patrol in Zone C 3 and C 4.
(Capt. S.9., 1415A/26 to S/M's on patrol in Area A.)

BLANKNEY. STORK. WHITEHALL. WITCH. BLANKNEY and STORK are to be sailed early A.M./28 to R/V with WHITEHALL and WITCH from Londonderry. Ships will then proceed in company to meet special convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1536/26 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

M/S Trawlers for Mombasa. A.M. 1829A/16. When ready for service request you will sail M/S Trawlers KENNET, AIGLON, POST BOY, MYRLAND, and ESTRELLA DO NORTE to Freetown calling at Azores for fuel.
2. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for their onward passage to Mombasa. Their ultimate destination will be decided later.
3. Ships should not be sailed in less than pairs.
(A.C.N.S. F., 1933A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

A/S Patrol. Request you will sail GOSSAMER to R/V with SPEEDWELL in 055° 30' N. 011° 30' W. at 1500A/26 and establish A/S Patrol on parallel 055° 30' N. between 011° 30' and 012° 45' West.
(C. in C. W.A., 0057A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Sailed GOSSAMER at 0245/26.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0725A/26.)
Carry A/S patrol between 55° 30' N. 15° W. and 55° 30' N. 14° W. until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 1541A/26 to ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.)
In R/V position at 2000A/26.
(SPEEDWELL, 1946A/26 to GOSSAMER.)
Take up new A/S patrol positions forthwith on parallel 55° N. HEBE and HAZARD between 15° and 13° 30' W. GOSSAMER and SPEEDWELL between 12° and 13° 30' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 2353A/26.)

/ A/S sweep.....

"INCOMPLETE".

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy O.N.(M).10 reported being attacked at 2135 about 10 miles South of St. David's Head. No details are known.

### Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Faeroe Islands to St. Abbs Head, off Tynemouth and possibly in the Firth of Forth area.

M.L.195 was mined off the Humber at 0700 and was taken in tow by M.L.197. Other mines were detonated off the Humber and in the Thames Estuary.

### South Atlantic.

Italian ships. — An agreement was signed today between the Argentine and Italian Governments under which the former purchases 8 ships, and has a call on a further 8 on condition that the Italian Government has the right of repurchase within 6 months of the end of the war.

Operation "Kedgeree" — The operation was abandoned at 1700Z today, the Vichy French convoy not having been sighted. AUSTRALIA, and HAWKINS after refuelling at Simonstown, are proceeding to Durban.

MOST SECRET

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations - Contd.

**A/S sweep by M/L's.**

My 2331/25. Weather unsuitable.
(A.C.I.C. 1033/26.)

**Operations "Gauntlet" "Dervish".**

A.M. 1549/22, 1818/23, 1709/24, and C. in C. H.F. 0935/20. (Re Beacons) Arrangements confirmed.
(D.O.D. H., 1126A/26 to V.A.2.)
Arrangements in Home Fleet Charge Document H.V. One in force from 1200A/27/8 till 1200A/8/9.
(ii) Limit of Soviet air protection 180 miles radius from Murmansk.
(iii) Reference recoding table letter G will not be recoded. W/T beacon facilities as in my 1827A/18 to C.S.1 and S.O. Force A only will operate in fog when forces are estimated to be approaching.
(F.O.2 H.F., 1341A/26 to C.S.1., S.O. Force A., ELECTRA.)

**Spitzbergen. 6 M/V's captured.**

Messengers arrived by motor boat 25 (th) with letter from Lieutenant R.A. Tamber, Royal Norwegian Navy, Military Governor Spitzbergen, stating that he has captured three cargo (? ships) and three smaller craft. ? (Russian) and Norwegian settlements running short of supplies and Germans becoming suspicious. He requests escort ship to take away (? ships) and ask for supplies. His letter is being (? sent to Admiralty) by first opportunity.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1303/26 to Admty.)

### British Air Activity.

**Escort for S.N.70A.**

Air Escort delayed by weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0226/26 to R.A.M.)
My 1248/26th. Sunderland may be considerably delayed. Expect Hudson about 1600/26th to be relieved by Whitley.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1346/26 to R.A.M.)

**Patrol.**

HORNLI now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0904/26.)

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Myggenaes Beacon.**

My 1048A/25. Myggenaes Radio Beacon temporarily out of action.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1205A/26.)

**LA MOQUEUSE attacked on 25/8.**

On escort duty at 2134/25 near South Bishop attacked by a twin-engined enemy plane. Three bombs. No damage.
(LA MOQUEUSE, 2006/26.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert. Contd.

During a shipping sweep in the Gulf of Sidra today Blenheims sank a schooner and an escort vessel; a second schooner left with a heavy list, probably sank later.

There was a heavy air raid by 10 aircraft on Mersa Matruh last night. Little damage was caused.

90 sorties were made by fighter aircraft today, to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

S.N.15. R.A.M. 2356A/25. Sail two destroyers as additional A/S Escort for 1st M.L. Squadron as required by R.A.M.
(V.A.2., 0340A/26 to R.A.D.)
LIGHTNING and LAMERTON proceed 0700 to act as additional A/S screen as ordered by you.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0430/26 to R.A.M.)

Harwich. At 1250/25 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1036A/26.)

Yarmouth. L.L. Trawlers detonated red magnetic mine. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1458A/26.)

Off Buddon. Mine detonated at 1250 today over position of old controlled minefield off Buddon. No evidence of recent enemy mine-laying, and considered possible that mine may have been detonated through its remaining tail. Area now being swept by L L and S A.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1635/26.)
My 1635/26. A second mine has been exploded by LL in approximate same position and with same characteristics at 1935/26. Sweeping will be resumed tomorrow. Port remains open.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 2319/26.)

Milford Haven. Port is closed owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2337A/26.)

### Enemy Intelligence.

Murmansk. Information Soviet Army High Commissioner for Intelligence indicates German Combined operation against Murmansk district projected. German Staff given instructions for use if necessary all Air Forces Norway, Finland for this purpose and have ordered R/C of district. Stated orders given not to bomb docks and wharves Murmansk. German troop and Air Reinforcements have (? arrived) West of Kandalaksha area, latter from Kirkenes and Banak; fierce fighting reported Alakuritt 80 miles West Kandalaksha with some enemy gains.
Inference Germans attempting to cut railway if no (? ordered) offensive against Murmansk before winter.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1611C/26.)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### South Atlantic.

A ship, apparently S.S. BRAJARA, reported being followed by a suspicious ship at 0355Z in 28° 20' S. 34° 24' E.

Operation "Cutting" (See 19/8.)

LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by MILFORD left Freetown at 1630 today.

### Mediterranean.

Malta.

Two aircraft were over Malta last night and started small fires in the dockyard. Damage was insignificant.

Operation "Mincemeat"

The minelaying operation was completed at 0338B today. Force H demonstrated off Valencia.

Italian battle fleet at sea.

At 0810 today air patrols sighted 2 battleships and 13 or 14 destroyers 30 miles S.S.E. of Cape Spartivento, steering 240°, and at 0828 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers 15 miles S.E. of the battle fleet, steering the same course. The two forces were both located again at 1700, when they were steering 140° and 70° respectively.
UPHOLDER, one of the four S/M's ordered yesterday to the area reported this morning one cruiser probably damaged.

P.33, P.32 overdue.

P.33 is overdue from patrol since 20/8 and must be considered lost.
P.32 is also overdue.

Libya & Western Desert.

10 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli dock and suspected petrol dump areas from 0001 to 0400 today.
Three large fires visible 60 miles were caused in the dock area and a very large fire visible 135 miles in a supply dump area south of the town.

/During.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 26.8.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Enemy Units on 18/8. Following repeated to you for information. Repeats Admty. 1619A/19. (Admty. 1934A/26 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Casualties and Defects.

COVERLEY. Your 1942A/25. Approved to tow COVERLEY to Oban. (D.A.S.W. 1800A/26 to WESTERN ISLES.)

OCEAN VICTOR. Your 1116/18. No news of (MNZR) OCEAN VICTOR since leaving Reykjavik to fish on 5/8. Understood she was returning to U.K. direct. (A.C.I.C. 2353/25 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

KINGSTON AGATE. Superheated safety valve defective and condenser leaking. Can continue patrol on wet steam only. (KINGSTON AGATE, 2355A/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

F.N., E.C., F.S. Convoys. Harwich additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1114A/26.) See Lion Copy.

T.C.12B. Owing to U-Boat situation T.C.12B. will be re-routed by Admty. Destroyer escort will be required to remain with convoy throughout the voyage refuelling at St. Johns. Canadian destroyers will subsequently escort DUCHESS OF ATHOLL to Halifax. (C. in C. W.A., 1132A/26 to C.C.N.F.)

Speeding Up Turn-Round. Your 2239/21. Concur. A/S Trawler escort can be provided from 40th A/S Group at Portland, but no Hunt Class Destroyer is available until PUCKERIDGE, now working up, joins 1st D.F. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1545/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. A.M. 1755/18 and A.M. 1635A/25 & C. in C. W.A. 1132A/26. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL will not now sail until the first week in September when it is hoped she will proceed direct to Halifax without calling at Iceland. (V.C.N.S. 1753A/26 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Kites.....

"INCOMPLETE".

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

WOLSEY reports having sunk LL Trawler KOS XVI in collision off Hornsea.

A Russian submarine reports having penetrated Petsamo harbour and torpedoed a 2000 ton vessel alongside and a 5000 ton loaded ammunition ship entering the harbour.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy aircraft bombed Myggenaes Lighthouse (Faeroes) this afternoon. The W/T Station was damaged but can work intermittently.

BLACK SWAN escorting Convoy B.B.67 in the Western Approaches was bombed at 2100 and had her tiller flat damaged; there are two U.X.B's on board, one of which BLACK SWAN reports cannot be removed without cutting her plating.
The convoy was not damaged.

Mining.

Danish S.S. SKAGERRAK was mined and sunk in the river Orwell this afternoon.

Mines were detonated in the Humber and Thames Estuary.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

**Kites.**

My 1457A/25. Kites should be flown in outbound Ocean convoys east of 8° West.
(C. in C. W.A, 1945A/26 to W.A. Gen. Message N.177.)

**Russian Shipping.**

Admiral Miles reports that Russians wish to send 9 or 10 ships to U.K. with return of convoy "Dervish". Some of these ships may be only 9 knots. It has been decided that these ships must be accepted.
(V.C.N.S. 1954A/26 to V.A.2.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

The enemy battle fleet (see 24/8) was sighted again by air R/C at 0815 today in 38° 40' N. 9° 40' E. steering 210°. Evening air R/C failed to sight them.

Libya & Western Desert.

Nine Wellingtons attacked Tripoli dock area from 0300 to 0345 today.

Fighter aircraft today made 62 sorties to protect shipping proceeding to and from Tobruk.

East Indies.

Operation "Countenance"

A combined operation was carried out today in the Persian Gulf, in connection with the entry of Imperial and Russian troops into Iran.
There was some opposition by the Iranian forces. By the evening, British forces were completely in control of the oil refinery at Abadan, which is undamaged. Down river, however, there are still some Iranian posts and guns: operations to clean them up and render the passage of the river safe will commence tomorrow.
Khorramshah was occupied and the passage of the river secured between Basra and Abadan.
Bandar Shahpur the terminal port of the Trans-Iranian Railway surrendered during the morning and our forces were in full occupation by the afternoon. Eight merchant ships were captured, all more or less damaged by sabotage, though most of them are repairable.
Iranian naval losses were the sloops PALANG and BABR sunk, 4 gunboats (which C. in C. E.I. hopes to be able to put into service), 1 depot ship, 2 tugs and a floating dock for 6000 ton ships captured. Admiral Bayendor, C. in C. of the Iranian naval and military forces in this area was killed.
There were a very few British naval casualties and some military casualties.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Raiders.

Intelligence. D.D.I.C., 1825A/26, (See Lion Copy.)

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| EUGENIO C. | Expected leaving Castro Urdialles late p.m./25 with 7000 tons iron ore. (F.O.C.N.A., 0527A/26 to N.A. Stn.) |
| MANXMAN. | Departure at 0130A. (F.O.C.N.A. 0732A/26 to Admty.) |
| LEITH. VIDETTE. BLUEBELL. | Return in company to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1022A/26). |
| Vichy Flag. | Majority of Vichy merchant ships now surround French Flag on hull with a yellow repeated yellow frame. (F.O.C.N.A. 1028A/26 to Admty.) |
| Aircraft over Las Palmas. | Military Governor Las Palmas has informed Consul there that without obtaining prior authority from Spanish Govt. 2 aeroplanes flew over Grand Canary on 18/8 and 1 on 20/8. Above aeroplanes are believed to have been British and Governor states that any future unauthorized flights will result in aeroplanes being fired upon. (Teneriffe, 1200/26 to Ambassador, Madrid). |
| Dispositions. | Situation report No. 1 at 2000A/26, all positions N. and W. (i) SEVERN on patrol within 20 miles of 34.40 13.10 moving during night 26/27 to patrol within 20 miles of 33.45, 14.50. (ii) VIDETTE, LEITH and BLUEBELL returning to Gibraltar from patrol off Tagus (iii) WILD SWAN SPIREA on patrol off Cape St. Vincent (iv) SCOTTISH -leaves patrol Y.3 for Gibraltar 2100/26 (v) LOCH OSKAIG on patrol Y.1 (vi) VIMY in 39.18, 12.55, 130°, 14 knots to Gibraltar (vii) LANCE 38.00 12.30 about 292° 21 knots. (viii) MANXMAN in 36.00 13.00 through 36.00 15.00 and 40.00 18.00, 20 knots. (ix) IMPERIALIST sails 0900/27 for patrol Y.3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/26). |

/0.24.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8;1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| O.24. | Intend to sail Netherlands Sub. O.24 p.m./28 for 18 days patrol in Gulf of Genoa and on Italian coast North of 042° 30' N. (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/26 to C. in C. Med.) |
| Operation "Mincemeet". | Arrival S.O. Force H. in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, NESTOR, FURY, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, ENCOUNTER. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508A/26 to Admty. etc.) |
| JUERGEN (?) | Empty Life Boat from German S.S. JUERGEN in position 038° 56' N. 013° 44' W. now in tow. (VIMY, 1930A/26 to F.O.C.N.A). W.D. Note:- No JUERGEN in Lloyds' List except an auxiliary sailing vessel of 100 tons. |
| FARNDALE, O.21. | V.A. Malta 1520B. O.21 leaves Gibraltar 2100A/27 through 036° 20' 002° 15' W. 038° 00' 005° 00' E. 038° 35' 009° 00' speed 13 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 2138A/26 to FARNDALE) See also 1119/27. |
| FARADAY, Gibraltar Tugs. | In view decision expressed in Admty. 1537/25, request you will now take action as my 0003/3. Further signal will be sent respecting amended tug position, life saving appliances, and gear. (D.S. T. 2154A/26 to A.S. Gibraltar). |
| CORDELIA. | In position 028° 41' N. 024° 55' W. at 1345A on 26/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 2304A/26 to FLEUR DE LYS, AZALEA). |
| EAGLE. | Your 1235N/26. Request you will sail EAGLE to R/V with 2 destroyers in 021° N. 019° W. at 1200A/2. (F.O.C.N.A., 2358A/26 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| French Warships. | Minesweeper COMMANDANT RIVIERE and S/M SIDI FERRUCH passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1138/26. (D.O.R. 27/8). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

"Kedgeree". Operation "Kedgeree" was abandoned at 1700Z/25. No contact made other than that reported in my 2030/22, 2044/23 and 0834/24. AUSTRALIA is returning to Durban and HAWKINS refuelling at Simonstown before proceeding to Durban. C. in C. E.I. has been requested to give orders for future movements of both ships. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0907Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

Corvettes and Destroyers Freetown. In view of F.O.C.N.A.'s 1314B/1 in reply to your 0301N/29/7 and in order to alleviate conditions of service in the Freetown area it is proposed:-
A. That all destroyers and corvettes on S.A. Station should do their annual refit in U.K.
B. That they should carry out 6-monthly docking on the station.
C. To increase corvettes and destroyers on your station if and when proposals A. and B. are put into effect, should submarine threat be sufficient to justify this: otherwise to accept reduction in Freetown escort Force implied by A. and B.
2. Emphasized that arrangements depend on how S/M situation develops.
3. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1113A/26 to C. in C. S.A).

W.S.10.
EDINBURGH.
CARNARVON CASTLE.
HAWKINS. Intend following arrangements for escort of W.S.10 Cape to Durban and of returning ship with service personnel. EDINBURGH to escort Durban portion to Durban then return Simonstown to boiler clean. CARNARVON CASTLE to arrive Capetown 3/9 and escort Cape Portion on to Durban sailing about 5/9 then return with returning ship requiring escort to Capetown, where EDINBURGH will take on escort to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1159N/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). My 1159/26 and C. in C. E.I 0952/26. Request you sail HAWKINS to relieve EDINBURGH as escort to W.S.10 when in the vicinity of Cape and then to escort Durban portion of convoy to Durban. EDINBURGH to proceed to Simonstown boiler cleaning as directed in Admty. 2222A/20 and wait arrival of ships detailed from W.S.10 for conveyance of personnel to U.K. (C. in C. S.A., 2101N/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C.S.18.)

/EAGLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

EAGLE. Admty. 1547/21/8. Intend to sail EAGLE for Gibraltar 30 or 31/8. Escort difficulties at moment considerable owing to REVENGE, W.S.10X, and 4 destroyers away. Can you send destroyers to fuel Bathurst and escort to Gibraltar, if so will sail EAGLE 31/8 with destroyer escort to meet in 13.05 N. 18.55 W. 1600/1. Alternatively will sail EAGLE 30/8 with escort to 21° N. arriving about 2/9 and request onward route and escort arrangements from there. (C. in C. S.A. 1235N/26 to F.O.C.N.A).

C.F.2. Simonstown arrival 26/8, HAWKINS. Capetown departure 1400, QUEEN OF BERMUDA and convoy C.F.2. for R/V with CILICIA in accordance with my 1643/25. S. of A. 14 knots. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1425Z/26 to Admty.)

Greek and Yugoslav Passengers. Following for F.O. from Sir Michael Palairet. Entire Greek party leave today on board DURBAN CASTLE, also 3 Yugoslav Cabinet Ministers. Remaining Yugoslav officials travel on board SOBIESKI leaving at same time via Freetown and also escorted during whole journey. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1535B/26 to Admty.).

ILEX. A.T. 1650A/21 and B.A.R.M. 1230R/25. ILEX will be taken in hand at Navy Yard Boston, Mass. (D.O.D. (F) 1722A/26 to C. in C. S.A.).

Italian Ships in Argentina. My 2146/23. The agreement between Argentine and Italian Govts. for purchase of Italian Ships in Argentine Ports was signed yesterday 25/8. Agreement establishes definite purchase of 8 Ships while other 8 are required on condition Italian Govt. has right to repurchase within 6 months end of war. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1804Z/26 to D.N.I). List of vessels concerned:-
(a) Purchased outright:-
AMABILITAS, CAPO ROSA, GIAN FRANCO, MONTE SANTO, PRINCIPESSA MARIA, CASTELBIANCO, TESEO, VALDARNO.
(b) With right of Italy to repurchase:-
INES CORRADO, VITTORIA VENETO, CERVINO, DANTE, FORTUNSTELLA, MARISTELLA, PELORUM, VOLUNTAS.
(D.S. 720, 27/8).

/SURREY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.8.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

SURREY. Your 1053X/25. Please confirm name of ship SURREY. Have no information about her movements. (C. in C. S.A., 1904N/26 to Admty.) Reply: 1358/27.

Oiling at Sea. My 1715A/18. Details of further trials. (4 S.L., 1956A/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Your 2143/24. If CARNARVON CASTLE cannot R/V with you as required and arrive Capetown on 3/9 (my 2137 /24) request you inform me if R/V is important arrival at Capetown A.M./4 can be accepted. (C. in C. S.A. 2045N/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

O.S. and S.L. Convoys. Up to the present escorts of S.L. convoys have to relieve those of O.S. convoys in about latitude 15° N. instead of 19° N. Result of this is O.S. escorts have had 5½ to 7 days in Harbour Bathurst and the larger Freetown escort has been about 240 miles less with both convoys than intended. Would it be possible for O.S. convoy to sail later in comparison with corresponding S.L. convoy? (C. in C. S.A. 2111N/26 to Admty.) See C. in C. W. Approaches 1656A/28 (Shipping).

GASCON (French). Consul General Loanda expects earliest GASCON can sail is P.M./28. You should leave patrol so as to reach Lagos with reasonable margin of fuel even if vessel has not been intercepted. Report when you have left and E.T.A. (C. in C. S.A. 2113N/26 to ALBATROSS).

### Mediterranean.

MASSIS. Tanker 5022 tons, sequestered by Vichy about June and handed over to Italians under guise of compliance with Armistice terms, reported sunk. Had previously been reported as one of 4 French tankers proceeding to Constanza to load about middle of May, 2 of which, ALBERTA and CAPITAINE DAMIANI, were torpedoed. (D.S. 719, 26/8).

/Enemy E/B....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Enemy E/B.** Reported E-boat maintaining patrol between 038° 26' and Messina East of 015° 20'. (S.O.S., Malta, 1003/26 to TRIUMPH).

**Enemy Cruiser.** 038° 54' 010° 00' at 0912B/26, one cruiser, course 100°, speed 20 knots. (S.O.S. Malta, 1025B/26 to UPRIGHT).

**Alexandria, Raid.** Night 25/26. 8 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Alexandria. Several bombs fell in sea. One fire was started innative quarter South of Harbour.

**Bardia bombed.** Day 25/8. 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons of bombs on large dump near Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1031/26).

Alexandria air raid 0350 to 0515/26. About (8?) aircraft, H.L. bombing, using flares. About 15 H/E over a wide area. Six houses demolished and (?) an Egyptian army store damaged by fire. Two R.A.F. personnel slightly injured. No other casualties. (R.A. Alexandria, 11430/26 to Admty.)

**REGENT.** Sail 17000/26 to arrive Malta before 2000B/1 or a.m./2 (route). (Capt. S.1, 10500/26 to REGENT) Cancelled, see 1601/26.

**Turkey and Iran.** From Admiral Kelly, interview with General Asim Gunduz 25/8. (N.A. Angora, 12310/26 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

**Enemy Convoy orders to S/M's.** One destroyer and torpedo boat escorting 8 knots southbound convoy expected Marittimo about 0500B/27. UPRIGHT intercept in 038° 43' 012° 35' at about 2000B/26. URGE between position L and Marittimo until 0800B/27 then to carry out original programme. UPRIGHT remaining east of 012° 10' between 038° 20' and 038° 30' until URGE and TRIUMPH have passed. (S.O.S. Malta 1245B/26 to UPRIGHT, URGE).

/UTMOST.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

UTMOST. Leave present position p.m./26 and carry out special operation and leave patrol p.m/28 returning by reverse of outward route to arrive Malta before 2030B/30 or at 0700B/31. (S.O.S., Malta, 1253B/26, to UTMOST).

Suez Canal. C. in C. Med. 18500/25/7. No mines considered remain in Canal. No sweeping in Canal since 21/8. In Suez Bay on 21/8 one explosion 6 cables north of Newport Rock. In Abadieh Bay, Suez, on 24/8 explosion(s) close astern tug towing 30 ton crane in 8 fathoms. Both damaged, 4 casualties. Searching sweep of area completed 25th. No results. Normal traffic resumed. (S.B.N.O. Suez 12590/26 to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O. Port T. Your 1340/25. M.N.B.D.O. Officer will be sent to Colombo. Further signal will be made about requirements from East Indies resources. (C. in C. Med,,13050/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

DEUCALION. FARNDALE. MELBOURNE STAR. Intend sailing DEUCALION at 1100B/26 followed by FARNDALE sailing 2000B. If no signal is made by FARNDALE after passing M/V it will mean that they are safely through the Narrows and I intend to sail MELBOURNE STAR on 27/8. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to locate DEUCALION during day of 28th, same route from Galita Island and speed as DURHAM. (V.A. Malta, 1316B/26 to Admty.)
FARNDALE sailed 2000. (V.A. Malta, 2010B/26 to F.O.C.N.A. 2203B.)

TRIUMPH. Leave Patrol at 2030B/26 and proceed through 038° 20' 012° 40' thence direct to position J to make passage to position H. during daylight/28 to arrive Malta before 2030B/29 or at 0630B/30. (S.O.S., Malta, 1347B/26 to TRIUMPH).

FARNDALE. 0.21. Request you will signal to FARNDALE route ordered for Dutch S/M 0;21. FARNDALE has been instructed to adjust her route so as to pass at least 20 miles clear. Please inform 0.21 that DEUCALION sailed 1130B/26 routed as for DURHAM. (V.A. Malta 1520B/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/THRASHER.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| THRASHER.<br>REGENT. | Sailing REGENT postponed. Cancel my 10500/26. PASS OF BALMAHA and escort due Alexandria, from westward 06000/27. (Capt. S.1, 16010/26 to THRASHER). |
| French Convoy. | Your 1417A/25. Original convoy passed north as well and it is understood they still do so. (Capt. S.1, 16170/26 to Capt. S.8.) |
| S/M Reserve Torpedoes. | A number of reserve Submarine torpedoes are available to complete outfits of Submarines refitting in U.S.A. When circumstances permit and in order to conserve Torpedoes in Mediterranean it is most desirable that Submarines should disembark reload Torpedoes before sailing for refit in U.S.A. (F.O.S., 1619A/26 to S.1). |
| Malta Raid. | Night 25/26, 2 aircraft dropped incendiaries in sea. No illuminations or interceptions.<br>Day 25/8, 3 Blenheims despatched to attack M/V 3000 tons Northbound off Kerkenah, unlocated returned with bombs. |
| Tripoli bombed | Night 25/26, 9 Wellingtons dropped 31,750 lbs. bombs and 1920 lbs. incendiaries Tripoli harbour and suspected dumps. |
| M/V sunk. | Day 26, 2 Blenheims bombed M/V 4000 tons N.E. Kerkenah, leader 2 hits with 250 lbs. bombs, unfortunately he hit mast, aircraft hit sea in flames. No hope of survivors, second aircraft one hit with 500 lbs. bomb and near miss with another. Ship left sinking fast on even keel and well down, confirmed by photography, claimed as sunk. (H.Q. Malta, 1715/26). |
| Turkey. | Question of air support. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1722/26, 1723/26) See Mediterranean Volume. |
| Operation "Mineemeat". | F.O. Force H 2130/25 paras 5 and 10. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1744A/26 to V.A. Malta). |

/Tobruk.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tobruk mining. | Weekly report ending 25/8. Two magnetic mines red polarity detonated south of swept channel outside booms. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk 17460/26). |
| HANS SCHMIDT. (German). | Anchored in Valencia Roads after leaving Port 0029. (Valencia THI 1910/26 to M. of W.T.) |
| S/M's. | Decided that in addition to PORPOISE and P.34 4 submarinesshould be sent to reinforce Med. Fleet as early as possible. Requested you will signal proposals. (V.C.N.S. 1936A/26 to F.O.S). |
| URGE. | Your 1913/26 (N.T. in W.R) received. URGE proceeding in to Naples down West Coast. (V.A. Malta, 2304B/26 to TRIUMPH). |
| Situation Report 129. | 15th C.S. unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo A/C at dusk/25 while covering operation "Treacle" Air Raid on Alexandria 0350 to 0515/26. No important damage. Syria. French Hospital ship SPHINX left Beirut 19000/26. (C. in C. Med., 23560/26 to Admty.) |

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bunkering at Abadan. Ref. A.M.1253/24. This has always been practicable and will of course uninterruptedly continue. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 03047/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

Axis Ships in Iran, BARBARA, BRONTE. S.O. Force B1605/25 is being passed to you for information. Attention is invited to Troopers 78352/17/8 (N.T. in W.R.) regarding the (?decision) use of two tankers BARBARA and BRONTE to refuel Italian ships evacuating civilians from Ethiopia. Admty. 1743/24 also refers. (C. in C. E.I. 06222/26 to Admty. etc.)

AUSTRALIA, HAWKINS, C.M.18 W.S.10. Your 2032/25. (i) AUSTRALIA is required for escort of C.M.(?18) from Durban 15/9. Request she may remain at Durban. Further signal will be made if required for patrol in Mozambique Channel. (ii) On arrival Simonstown 26/8 HAWKINS will have done 47 days at sea out of 50, and I am anxious she should have a spell in harbour. She is required for escort of W.S.10 B. from Durban 8/9. My 1152/25 refers. (iii) HAWKINS could be used to escort Durban portion of W.S.10 from the Cape. (C. in C. E.I., 09522/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Gunboats. Ref. 2030 from Admty. 23. (Repetition of 1717/22 re transfer of SCARAB and SEAMEW to East Indies -Station) If (?4) Persian Gunboats captured yesterday can be taken over permanently and examination show that they are in good condition and well found in spares I will no longer require SCARAB and SEAMEW. Pending Admty. decision on this matter C. in C. China is requested not to proceed with preparations of these ships for passage to East Indies. (C. in C. E.I. 12182/26 to Admty., C. in C. China.)

EL MADINA. Has twice shown herself incapable of making more than 10 knots and her inclusion in personnel convoys of 14 and 15 knots ships should if possible be avoided. (C. in C. E.I. 12222/26 to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

Abadan, Operation "Mopup". Operation "Mopup" completed. There are now no Persian troops left on Abadan Island. I intend to visit Bandar Shahpur tomorrow 27th by air. (S.N.O. P.G., 14012/26 to C. in C. E.I.)
S.N.O. P.G. 1401/26 para. 1 refers to occupation of Khazalabad. (C. in C. E.I., 17102/22 (?/26))

/Iran .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Iran Evacuations. Political Resident requires that approach for evacuation to Persian Gulf Ports should not take place before 28/8. LAWRENCE and YARRA are therefore to defer approach to Bushire and Bandar Abbas respectively until that date. (S.N.O. P.G., 1947Z/26 to YARRA, LAWRENCE.) Evacuation of British civilians from Bandar Abbas is not to take place at present. Further orders regarding HILDA follow. (S.N.O. P.G., 2355Z/26 to YARRA amended 0120Z/27.)

Visit to certain places. It is regretted that "Kedgeree" interfered with the operation planned in your 1428/15 which it is hoped you will be able to carry out in the near future. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2148A/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

Port T. Your 1054/24. In view of need for preserving secrecy as long as possible, and as major part of the installation will be carried out by M.N.B.D.O., request your R/C may be delayed until shortly before the arrival of M.N.B.D.O. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2257A/26 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Plans. Reply to Admty.1958/21. (C. in C. China, 0411Z/26) See Operations Volume.

Aircraft. (C. in C. Far East 0032/26 to Governor, Burma.) See Lion Copy.

Indo-China, Thailand. F.E.W.45. (C.O.I.S., Far East, 0932Z/26) See Lion Copy.

D'ARTAGNAN (French) Departure 25/8, Shanghai 28/8. (N.C.S.O. Manila, 0612Z/26 to M. of W.T.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tankers for Iceland. | Ref. A.L.U.S.N.A. London, 2230/25. Names of 3 tankers are W.H. HUTTON, EAGLE, PENNSYLVANIA. (Spenavo, 0825/26 to Admty.) |
| Task Forces. | Future Movements. (D.O.D.(H) 1230/26 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.) |
| ORION. | Your 1252/25 E.T.A. Balboa 1300 G.M.T./28. About 1200 tons fuel required. Propose proceeding direct to Mare Island after fuelling. (ORION, 1432Z/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Approved 1032/27. |
| AUSTRALIND. | Due Balboa 20/8 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1444R/26 to Admty. etc.) |
| St. John's, N.F. | A/T Baffle has now been laid in entrance to St. John's Harbour, Newfoundland. Following are positions of Baffle Buoys. (C.C.N.F. 1511Z/26 to Admty.) |
| FURIOUS. | A.M. 1550A/22, para.3. FURIOUS allotted to Philadelphia, job number S.137. (D.O.D.(H) 1540A/26 to FURIOUS, F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| EMPRESS OF ASIA. | Your 1609Z/25. H.M. Transport EMPRESS OF ASIA cannot complete coaling before 27/8; cannot arrive New York before p.m./3. earliest. Request British Embassy Washington, be asked to arrange landing permits for approx. 100 civilian passengers. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1517Q/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)<br>Your 0303/26. If no unforeseen delay occurs, ship should be able to embark personnel at Halifax to sail in H.X.149 10/9. Assume personnel to full capacity are to be embarked. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1616Z/26 to D. of S.T.) |
| Comtask Force 5. | From O.P.N.A.V. for Duty Captain. New Schedule. (Spenavo, 1618/26 to Admty.) |
| CARSLOGIE. | Have you any news of CARSLOGIE from Loch Ewe due 19/8. (D.T.D. 1629A/26 to N.C.S.O. Sydney N.S.) Reply: 1507/27. |
| ASCANIA. | Departure ASCANIA due Bermuda 16000/31. Captain wishes to carry out full calibre night firing on leaving Bermuda.(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1715Q/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.) |

/TRUANT .....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

TRUANT. My 1043R/21. Owing to delay in completion of refit dates are amended as follows: Leave Portsmouth N.H. 30/8 etc. (B.A.R.M. 1748R/26 to Admty. etc.)

C.A.M. Ships. C.A.M. ships EASTERN CITY and EMPIRE FAITH in Convoy O.N.8 and EMPIRE SPRAY and EMPIRE OCEAN in Convoy O.N.9 will call at Halifax and will be routed on for loading at U.S.A. Ports. Aircraft should be disembarked for servicing on arrival and should be re-embarked on return of vessels to Halifax for Convoy. (D.T.D. 2107A/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Galapagos. All shipping between North American and South American west coast ports is being routed east of Galapagos Islands. (C. in C. A.W.I. 21529/26 to Commander West Indies, PRINCE HENRY.)

GUADELOUPE. (French) Arrived 25th. (New York, 2230Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

### Australia and New Zealand.

Service Personnel. Your 0334A/18 and 1725A/22. Intend lifting Australian commitment as follows: AORANGI for U.K., 32 R.A.N., 100 R.A.A.F. MONTEREY 430 R.A.A.F., of which 208 for U.K. CERAMIC for U.K., 41 R.A.N. 51 A.I.F., 100 R.A.A.F. ATHLONE CASTLE 100 R.A.A.F. for U.K. ATHLONE CASTLE contingent will take passage to New Zealand in MONTEREY. (A.C.N.B., 0553Z/26 to D. of S.T.)

MONTEVIDEO MARU, raider report. My 0647Z/25. From special Intelligence report MONTEVIDEO MARU (corrupt group) on Sunday 24/8 001° 40' N. 166° 16' W. or E. (A.C.N.B. 0605Z/26 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.)

Pacific Routeing Plans. Your 0503Z/22. Concur Cape York, Fiji. (A.C.N.B., 0751Z/26 to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET.

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

0.G.71 — Your 1835/25. Accurate story of Convoy has been circulated from Lisbon by Reuters and Associated Press of America. Latter refers to a Press conference at which a Naval Officer was present. Story will also be broadcast by B.B.C. No further statements appear necessary. (D.P.D., 0050A/26). Approved by V.C.N.S. to N.A. Lisbon.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE, (torpedoed 25/8). — SOUTHERN PRINCE P.C. and S. at 0430 was 062° 15' N., 009° 21' W., 150° 10' knots. NEWARK in company. (R.A.M., 0432A/26 to Admty).

Unknown ship. — S S S S 2327 from unknown station strength 2 torpedoed no further particulars. (Wick Radio, 2327/26 to Admty).

### Submarines Reported.

0220 — 1 submarine my position 348 62° N., 11° W. 18 (CAPE PALLISER, 0220/26 to Scapa W/T).
My 0220 (report of S/M) Unable to maintain contact proceeding to T R 34. Request instructions. (CAPE PALLISER, 0310/26 to S.O.N.T.)
Am over enemy S/M in 62.09N., 18.01 W. (A/C using callsign MK73 0740/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course 090° 4 knots. Request return REK rearm. (A/C 0800/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Reports considered to evidence presence of substantial number of U/Bs. in area bounded by Malin Head, Barra Head, 60° 10° S., coast of Iceland (C), 60° 20° ,55° 15°, Achill Head. (D.D.I.C., 1432A/26).

1500 — Training A/C from Arbroath reports S/M on surface 084°. Arbroath 44 miles steering 060° at 1500/26. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1544/26 to Admty V.A.2, A.C.O.S.)
My 1544. S/M was submerged throughout and periscope and feather in sight for about 1 minute. Shape of S/M seen under water. Height of A/C 1,000 feet, state of sea 2 to 3. Course of S/M doubtful. Classified B.4.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1744/26 to Admty, V.A.2 A.C.O.S.)
Am over enemy S/M in 53.20 N., 16.15 W., Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C using call sign F.H.6 Q 1550/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)

/S/M.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1500- Contd. S/M previously reported was on course 180° speed 8 knots. (A/C using call sign F.H. 6 Q, 1615/26 to 15 Group H.Q.)

1426 G.M.T. D/F at 1426 G.M.T. U-boat in 53° 30' N., 13° 30' W. unreliable fix. (D.L.I.C., 1608A/26).

2110 G.M.T. It is probable that H.X.144 has been sighted by a U-boat at 2110 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 2310A/26 to BULLDOG, AMAZON, GEORGETOWN).

Submarines Attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 58.17 N., 13.48 W. Have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate Nil hits. (A/C using call sign MGXJ, 0940/26) Whitley A/C. (D.S.720).

By A/C U-boat attacked 61.33 N., 16.47 W. (A/C using call sign B.8 D.P. 1014/26 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F Stn.) (Liverpool W/T, 1220A/26 to Orkneys and Shetlands) Hudson A/C (D.S. 720).
My 1014. Periscope only sighted on course 040° 8 knots. Have attacked enemy with depth charges, result unknown. (A/C using call sign B.8 D.P. 1025/26 to Kaldardames H/F D/F Stn).
No enemy has been sighted between bearings CFHK 836 and JZWM 2810 up to a distance of 30 miles from JZHD 0959. Average visibility is 8 miles. Am maintaining prearranged track.
(A/C using call sign B 8 D.P. 1115/26 to 15 Group,

By A/C 1009. A/C reports S/M bombed by own A/C 061° 03' N., 017° 04 ' W., at 1009. Am proceeding to position to hunt. (KINGSTON AGATE, 1400A/26 to S.O.N.T.)

By A/C Sub bearing 270° distance 3 miles course 270° position 59.10 N., 13.15 W.
(A/C using call sign OQ7P 1510/26 to Wick)
Hudson A/C, attackwith D/Cs believed damaged.
(D.S., 720).

/By VIMY.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

By VIMY, 1600/25 1300/26. Attacked contact in 043° 21' N., 019° 55' W., at 1600A/25 and 040° 35' N., 014° 45' W., at 1330A/26, both 2 hour hunts. Result doubtful. My P.C. and S. 040° 24' N., 014° 30' W., 130° 13 knots, weather. (VIMY, 1600A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C Am over enemy S/M in 58.45 N., 12.06 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on course 270°.
(A/C 'J' 2030/26 to 15 Group) Whitley A/C. (D.S.720).
Have attacked enemy with bombs dive, and estimate no hits. (A/C - 2035/26 to 15 Group).

By A/C Am over Enemy S/M in 58.54 N., 13.09 W. Have attacked estimate no hits.
(A/C 'J' 2154/26 to 15 Group) Whitley A/C. (D.S.720).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Spitzbergen. Force A is operating at Spitzbergen.

Unknown Ship. A civil aircraft reported a large merchant ship without markings in 44° 22' N. 9° 52' W. course 095° at 1540 today. TUNA was ordered to intercept and air patrols were established.

British Air Operations.

25 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the docks at Le Havre last night. Warehouses at Boulogne were also attacked.

Enemy Air Operations.

A Heinkel III dropped 2 bombs near the oil tanks at Thorshavn at 1247A today. The tanks were not damaged.

Mining.

16 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Denmark. A few aircraft laid mines off Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire.

/It is.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

It is thought that enemy aircraft laid mines last night off the Pembrokeshire coast. Mines were detonated today off Milford Haven. The port was reopened subject to local restrictions at 1041A today.

Mines were also detonated off the Humber and in the Thames Estuary.

Mediterranean.

M.S. DEUCALION. M.S. DEUCALION which sailed from Malta yesterday for Gibraltar was shelled by a S/M N.E. of Kelibia but was not hit. In escaping, she was forced on to the edge of a minefield. Her paravane exploded a mine in 36° 59'30" N. 11° 9' E.; both paravanes were broken but the ship was undamaged. At 1220 she was attacked by torpedo bomber aircraft in 37° 18' N. 8° 19' E. and again at 1736 in 37° 24' N. 6° 54(?) E. It is reported that she brought down one of the aircraft in the second attack. At 1755 G.M.T. she reported being shadowed by an enemy U-boat in 37° 24' N. 6° 30' E.
FARNDALE which sailed from Malta 7 hours later than DEUCALION intends to close and escort her. Both ships arrived at Gibraltar a.m./27.

Operations by UPHOLDER UPHOLDER reports that on 20/8 she sank an escorted 2000 ton laden eastbound merchant ship off Cape St. Vito.
At 1630/22 off Cape St. Vito she reports that she obtained 2 hits with torpedoes on a 4000 ton tanker which she reported as the Italian Fleet oiler TARVISIO; heavy counter attack prevented observation of result.

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy attacked by F.A.A.

6 out of 9 Swordfish from Malta attacked at 2005 today off Lampedusa in very bad weather a convoy of 4 large merchant ships escorted by 4 destroyers sighted during the afternoon steering south. One 8000 ton ship was hit.

Libya & Western Desert.

8 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli in the early hours of today, dropping 30,000 lbs. of bombs and 1920 lbs. of incendiaries. Fires were visible 120 miles.

SKUDD III (minesweeper) was hit and set on fire and subsequently sank, in a heavy dive-bombing attack on Tobruk at 1745 today.

Operation "Treacle" is proceeding normally. PHOEBE was hit by an aircraft torpedo at 2145C today, 30 miles north of Bardia, whilst covering the operation. She is returning to Alexandria under her own steam with C.S.15 (NAIAD) with GALATEA and 4 destroyers in company.

Egypt & Canal Zone.

There was an air raid on Ismailia Aerodrome by 3 aircraft early this morning. No naval damage was caused but the R.A.F. had a few casualties and slight damage to buildings.

East Indies.

Iran.

KANIMBLA has been ordered to land a detachment to assist the military at Bandar Mashur, where the Anglo Iranian Oil Company's officials are threatened with arrest. SHOREHAM has been ordered to Bandar Shahpur.

COCKCHAFER, River Steamers and Eurekas are supporting the Army in the Karun River.
All is quiet at Abadan.
General mobilisation orders were issued today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

**Raider sighted.**

At 0830Z today PRINCE DAVID, on patrol reported an unknown enemy ship in 34° 30' N. 51° 47' W. steering 140° at 25 knots. At 0930Z she reported that she had lost touch and that the enemy appeared to be a heavy cruiser. RODNEY at Bermuda was ordered to raise steam for full speed; she proceeded at 1243Q.

**Galapagos Area.**

Late today, U.S. air reconnaissance had failed to find evidence of a raider in the Galapagos area.

U-Boat Campaign.

**Convoy O.S.4.**

Convoy O.S.4 was attacked last night and in the early hours of today in approx. 53° 37' N. 16° 40' W. in a moderate gale and heavy rain. Nothing was seen of the U-Boat. The following ships are reported to have been sunk: SEGUNDO, SAUGOR. The following are missing: LANGLEETARN, EMBASSAGE and H.M.S. CHEVREUIL. TREMODA was torpedoed and abandoned but it is hoped to get her in.

**U-Boat surrendered.**

There are indications of several U-boats in the N.W. Approaches; aircraft sweeps and hunts were carried out.
An A/C from Iceland (C) attacked a U-boat this morning in 62° 15' N. 18° 35' W. The U-boat surfaced at noon and surrendered.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**"Snowflakes" for C.E. Ships.**
My 1607A/14. To expedite the distribution of snowflakes to ocean escort vessels, arrangements are to be made, at ports where stocks of snowflakes exist, to ensure that before any ocean escort vessel leaves harbour she has on board her correct outfit of snowflakes. (A.C.N.S. T., 1007A/27).

**S/Ms for Mediterranean.**
Propose to sail following four S/Ms on following dates. (F.O.S., 1022A/27 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.

**Manning Conference.**
My 1120A/26. It is not intended that C. in C. H.F. should be recalled from leave, but it is requested that a representative may attemd. (1st S.L., 1156A/26).

**Flag of R.A.M.**
My flag has been transferred to AGAMEMNON today. (R.A.M., 1536A/27).

**Spitzbergen Evacuation.**
Report recieved by Soviet Embassy here from Russian Consul in Spitzbergen alleging that evacuation arrangements not working smoothly. Ambassador complains in particular that evacuees were not allowed to take their personal belongings, and that Russians were not being treated with courtesy.
2. No doubt you realise importance of showing all possible consideration to evacuees.
3. As far as space allows valuable parts of mining machinery should be withdrawn to U.K. and not destroyed.
4. Request short signalled report on next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
5. AURORA pass to Brigadier Potts.
(V.C.N.S., 1940A/27 to S.O. Force A).

**8th D.F. "F" Class Armaments.**
A.M. 2258A/15. Before joining W.A. Command following modifications to armament of "F" class destroyers of 8th D.F. are to be carried out during present repair and refit periods. Particulars The Armament landed is to be retained in readiness for replacement in the event of invasion warning. (A.C.N.S. T., 2123A/27).

**Plymouth Command.**
C. in C. Portsmouth's 1845/26 and my 2239/21. Request 1 A/A Destroyer and 40th A/S Group may be transferred to Plymouth Command when PUCKERIDGE joins 1st D.F. (C. in C. Plymouth 2306/27).

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with Russia.

British Representatives for Archangel. — Re flying boat to take urgently 3 naval officers and 3 representatives of Ministry of War Transport to Archangel. (V.C.N.S., 1704A/27 to A.O.C.in C. C.C., H.Q.C.C., 2300/27).

### Movements.

SKATE. — To comply with C. in C. W.A. 2350A/26 sailed SKATE 0156A/27. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 0159A/27).

PARTHIAN. — Intend to sail PARTHIAN at 1530A/29 by following route to R/V in 110° Start Point 6 miles at 0800A /30 and on completion independent exercises to Dartmouth. (Capt. S.5., 1444A/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

UPSHAR, GREER. (U.S.Ships). — Following received from Opnav. U.S.S. UPSHAR departs Reykjavik 28/8 for Argentia arriving 2/9. U.S.S. GREER departs Boston 1600/28 for Reykjavik via Argentia. (Spenavo 1639/27 to Admty).

### Operations.

A/S sweep. BLANKNEY, STORK. — BLANKNEY and STORK are to be sailed to R/V 180° 5 miles from Mull of Kintyre at 1200A/27 and proceed in company to carry out an A/S sweep in lat. 054° 45' N., between 012° and 014° W. Ships concerned will subsequently be ordered to meet special Convoy arriving from Westward. (C. in C. W.A., 0123A/27).

Operations "Dervish", "Strength". — My 1553A/21. Cancel paragraph (ii) and substitute new paragraph (ii):- "Intend to sail Force L to arrive Seidis Fiord P.M./31, proceeding thence as necessary to pass through position "W" and R/V with Force M in position "R" 075° N., 008° E., at 2000/3. (F.O.2 H.F., 1219A/27).

A/S Patrol. — Sailed AYRSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1240A/25. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1615A/27).

/Operation.....

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations. - Contd.

**Operation "Iliad".** Will not be carried out tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1620A/27).

**Interception of M/V.** Air patrols are being established when weather permits to the Eastward of your positions. Submarines may be ordered to intercept or pursue enemy, whose speed is not expected to exceed 12½ knots. T.B.R. arranged between 46° 30' and 44° N., and 05° and 11° W from 0600/28 until further notice. (F.O.S., 1856A/27 to TUNA, SEAWOLF). Large M/V reported by Civil Aircraft in 44° 22' N., 09° 52' W., course 095° 12 knots at 1540A/27 If you can do so proceed to intercept to Westward of 04° 40' W., on assumption that vessel is proceeding to Bilbao. (F.O.S., 1934A/27 to TUNA) A.M.1756/27. If TUNA can reach an intercepting position she may sink the M.V. at sight wherever met provided - (A) TUNA is satisfied M.V. is hostile. (B) M.V. is outside territorial waters. (V.C.N.S., 1948A/27 to F.O.S.) My 1934A/27. 1. Delete last two words and substitute "towards 43° 48' N., 04° 40' W". 2. You may sink the merchant vessel wherever met provided (a) you are satisfied merchant vessels is hostile (b) merchant vessel is outside territorial waters. (F.O.S., 2319A/27 to TUNA).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Thorshaven bombed.** One Heinkel III attacked Thorshaven at 1247A/27. 2 bombs dropped near oil tanks. No casualties. Slight damage to civilian property. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1427A/27).

### Mining.

**Milford Haven.** My 2337/26. Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1041A/27). One blue mine detonated by LL Trawlers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801A/27).

**Thames Estuary.** 1 S.A. Mine detonated at 1234/27 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1620/27).

/ADVENTURE.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining. - Contd.

ADVENTURE. My 0121/12. After experience of last operation with ship light and moving in a seaway, somewhat heavier vibration has been experienced than was previously reported. Further signal with recommendation will be made to-morrow after gaugings have been taken. (R.A.M., 1849/27).

Spurn Point. At 1640/27 one magnetic mine was detonated. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2000A/27).

### Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast. O.14 Reports. (A) Shipping patrol and air activity all practically non-existent. (B) Smoke screen trial on coast Lat. 60° 15' N. (F.O.S., 1102A/27).

Brest. La Pallice. La Rochelle. Cloudy photographs at 0945/27 at Brest show both Battle Cruisers and HIPPER Cruiser at usual positions. Only part Rade De Brest photoed but three M/Vs 350/400 ft. new arrivals a.m. 26/8 have left positions then occupied.
At La Pallice four destroyers still present. No change in shipping in Roads since 16/8. 450 ft. M/V reported as probably departed on 26/8 still present, together with two tankers 450 ft. and two M/Vs aground of Ile De Re.
At La Rochelle, no significant change in shipping since 26/8. (P.R.U., St. Eval 1355/27).

M/V off Corunna. Civil Aircraft reports a large M.V. in 44° 22' N., 9° 52' W. Course 095°, 12 knots, at 1540/27. No markings. (D.D.I.C., 1756A/27).

Murmansk Area. Projected attack. Russian report graded C.O. indicates German combined operation against Murmansk district projected on which all air forces Norway and Finland may be employed.
German 6th mountain division proceeding Stettin to Oslo in eight convoys of 3 to 5 ships in each convoy. Total 31 ships. Convoys to sail every two days commencing 27/8. Last convoy 10/9.
M.A. Stockholm reports graded C.O. German mountain division now on way to far North via Oslo, Trondheim, thence by sea and vehicles shipped via Vaasa. (D.N.I., 1814A/27 to V.A.2).

Unknown Ships. A.C.I.C.'s 1305/26. It is probable that the 3 ships are the MUNIN, RANDI, INGERTO, which are Norwegian ships. (D.D.I.C., 1934A/27 to V.A.2).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

M.L.177 — My 1015. M.L.177 broke down 025° Start Point 2 miles. Towing to harbour. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1229/27).

CHARLESTON, NEWARK. — Defects. (R.A.M. 1321/27) See U-boat Campaign, SOUTHERN PRINCE.

BEDFORDSHIRE. — (A/S Trawler) In distress with rope round screw last position 9 miles 067° from Lundy South Light at 1210/27 drifting westward. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331A/27 to KUJAWIAK). My 1331A/27 BEDFORDSHIRE taken in tow. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1716/27).

OMA. — My 1426/27. [illegible].Reported after arrival had to be towed part of the way by motor vessel ENERGIE from Looe Channel owing to engine trouble. She was able to enter harbour under her own power but is now completely broken down and unserviceabl (R.N.O. Shoreham, 1610/27).

PROTEUS. — Cover plate leaks badly. Propose to return to TITANIA. E.T.A. 1800A. (PROTEUS, 1615A/27).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.S. and -S.P. Groups. — Intend to establish a schedule of escorted groups of Coastal M.V. on the inshore route between St. Helens and Shoreham commencing 27/8. These groups will be escorted by 1 A/S trawler or Chasseur and will operate on a timetable dependent on high water at Shoreham. They will be called P.S. and S.P.groups and will be numbered according to the day of the month. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0957A/27 to Admty).

Balloons. — Cancel my 1457A/25 and 1945A/26. Ballons and kites are not to be flown in convoys when west of 8° W. (C. in C. W.A., 1143A/27 to W.A.G.M.M.178).

/M.S.11.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

W.S.11 — My 1818A/18. Ships to be sailed to R/V at 0830A /31. Route. (D.O.D. H., 1908/27 to C. in C. W.A). See Lion Copy.

E.T.A. — My 1659/10/6. Importance of accurate forecasts. (D.T.D., 1920A/27 to N.C.S.O.'s) See Lion Copy.

Oil Transfer, Iceland. — My 1932A/21 and your 0731A/23 and N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1010A/25. BRITISH COLONY is intended to inaugurate a service of oil transfer from U.S. to British Flag ships in Hvalfjord. Transfer of cargo had been arranged to take place on 1/9. Request you will therefore take first available opportunity of sailing this ship. (D.T.D. 1941A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DEUCALION. Attacked by S/M, mine, and A/C. See under Mediterranean.

BESSEL, EUGENIO C. German Bessel left Ferrol 1 a.m. 26/8. Italian EUGENIO C. reported at Castro Urdialles. (Guyatt Coruna, 1000/27 to Admty.) BESSEL sailed from Ferrol 0100/26. Destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1653A/27 to N.A. Stn.)

O.21. My 2136A/26. Insert new position 37° 15' 00° 00'. (F.O.C.N.A. 1119A/27 to FARNDALE.)

Dispositions. Situation report No.3 at 2000/27, all positions N.W. (i) STELLA CARINA approx. position 23.00 17.35 through 25.36 16.45 thence 50° 10 (ii) MARON patrol H.X.3 (iii) CAVINA patrol H.Z.1. (F.O.C.N.A., 1258A/27 to N.A. Stn.)

MARIA BELMATTI. Spanish auxiliary sailing vessel MARIA BELMATTI sailed last night for Rio de Oro. Loaded 400 empty drums rumoured vessel will load petrol for enemy at Dakar or elsewhere. Am informed members of crew were offered substantial remuneration and some refused to sail in vessel. (Las Palmas, 1300/27 to Admty.) Your 1300/27 has been repeated to S.O.I. Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2302A/27 to N.C.S.O. Las Palmas.)

DURHAM. Your 1746A/25. Please give Master of DURHAM congratulations of Board of Admiralty on the way he brought his ship to Gibraltar in spite of damage by mine. (1st S.L. 1544A/27 to F.O.C.N.A. )

S/M to visit Freetown. Admty. 2249A/15. In view of large number of A/S craft now based on Freetown, approved for a submarine to visit that port for about a month so that A/S training can be carried out. Request you will detail either SEVERN or CLYDE to proceed to Freetown as convenient. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1813A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MAURO CROCE. (Italian) For information. Probable that MAURO CROCE will leave Barcelona about 5/9 for Genoa with large cargo of olive oil. This commodity is of great importance to Italy. (D.E.W.D. 2234A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Mines. Floating mines were reported in 31° 30' S., 12° E. 360° W.N.W. Capetown, on 25/8. (D.S.721, 28/8.)

LAFONIA. Your 0723/16. Decided to allocate LAFONIA as an additional ship for service on West coast of Africa as a troopship. Estimated that she can be fitted for a total of 300 all ranks. (D. of S.T. 0243A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

CHESHIRE. Return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1141N/27 to CHESHIRE.)

Norwegian Whale Catchers. N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1327B/16. Vessels sailed. E.T.A. Kilindini a.m./5. S. of A. 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1142Z/27 to N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar.)

CIRCASSIA. Your 1202Q/18 and my 2145N/22. CIRCASSIA leaves Freetown 1800/27 routed through :-
(a) 010° 20' N. 016° 40' W. and
(z) 010° 45' N. 030° 00' W. to
(c) 025° 00' N. 042° 30' W.
E.T.A. (c) 0001/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1153N/27 to Admty. etc.)

Troops for M.E. On completion of movement of personnel ex W.S.10 the undermentioned troops will require transport from Durban to Mid East. Very desirable they should all be cleared by end of October, total 20964. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1216B/27 to D. of S.T.)

SURREY. Your 1904N/26, confirm ship addressed was SURREY sailed Trinidad 23rd for Buenos Aires. (D.T.D. 1358A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

CARNARVON CASTLE, ALCANTARA. If likely that under present arrangements CARNARVON CASTLE and ALCANTARA will be away from S.A. Station at same time, endeavour will be made to provide another A.M.C. instead. (C. in C. S.A., 1433N/27 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/EXMOUTH .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

EXMOUTH. Have you any news of American EXMOUTH from Karachi due 21/8 ? (D.T.D. 1545A/27 to N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

Codewords. Your 2311/24 (Operation "Cutting") Codewords should give no indication of nature of operation. Following codewords are allocated for your use. If more are required request you will apply to Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1705A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean

**TETRARCH**
**REGENT**

15th C.S. ABDIEL and 3 destroyers pass through 33°00' 26° 08' from Tobruk at 0600C/28 Keep West of 25° 15' until 0600C/28.
(Capt. S.1. 0030C/27 to TETRARCH)
My 0030C/27. Keep westward 025° 15' until 0600C/28 then proceed through 033° 06' 025°158 & 033° 20' 026° 36' arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/30. REGENT leaving Alexandria p.m./27 for 032° 16' 029° 22' and 033° 40' 027° 26' thence course 280°. (Capt. S. 1. 1215C/27)

**DEUCALION**

Communications of DEUCALION as for DURHAM Code Word "Canon". (V.A. Malta, 0831B/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
DEUCALION shelled by S/M N.E. of Kelibia. No hits. Paravane exploded mine in 036° 59' 30" 011° 09'. Both paravanes broken, otherwise no damage. Ship (?? proceeding).
(FARNDALE, 0754B/27 to V.A. Malta)
Following has been read. Addressed: Malta Radio. Help "Canon" 37.18 N., 8.19 E.
(DEUCALION, 1220/27)
Following has been read. Addressed Gibraltar W/T. Enemy aircraft bombing "Canon", 37.24 N. 6.54 15 E.
(DEUCALION, no T.O.O. Recd. 1736/27)
DEUCALION reports being shadowed by submarine in 037° 24' N., 006° 30' E. Intend to close and escort her, my position 037° 24' N., 005° 47' E.
(FARNDALE, 2001B/27 to V.A. Malta)
DEUCALION made help in 037° 18' N., 008° 19' E at 1220. At 1755 G.M.T. she reported being followed by enemy U-Boat. (F.O.C.N.A. 2017A/27 to FARNDALE)

**Submarines**

Reply to Admty. 1936A/26. (F.O.S. 1022A/27 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

**Alexandria Raid.**

During raid night 25/26 4 bombs dropped on Aboukir. Barracks damaged. 8 Airmen wounded. Some civilian damage and casualties.
Night 26/27. Some enemy aircraft reported over Suez Canal zone. 3 Parachutes Flares reported dropped 10 miles E. of Heliopolis. No damage or casualties reported.

**Benghazi Bardia bombed.**

Night 25/26. 5 Wellingtons bombed Railway Sidings in Benghazi Harbour. A sixth Wellington unable to reach Benghazi bombed Enemy Camp between Bardia and Tobruk.
4 Albacores F.A.A. dropped 2½ tons of bombs on Bardia Harbour, obtaining 3 hits on 1 ship and 1 hit on a second ship. Further bombs started 3 fires among petrol dumps.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1034/27)

/Enemy....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tripoli bombed. | Night 25/27. 8 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 2340 to 0330 hours dropped 30000 lbs. bombs and 1920 lbs. incendiaries. Fires visible 120 miles in military stores, other fires near W/T Station and on harbour foreshore. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1750/27) |
| UNIQUE UPHOLDER | My warmest congratulations to UNIQUE on his skilful and determined attack when sinking ESPERIA and to UPHOLDER again on his important success of 20, 22 and 24/8. (F.O.S., 1906A/27 to UNIQUE, UPHOLDER) |
| Situation Report 130. | Western Desert, Operation "Treacle" proceeding normally. SKUDD III hits and on fire in dive bombing attack Tobruk. Some casualties. Relief minsweepers being sent. Central Mediterranean R/C reveals no movement of enemy merchant vessels Southward. (C. in C. Med. 2135C/27) |
| Turkey. | Staff talks. Chiefs of Staff No. 163. (1st S.L., 2221A/27 to C's in C. Med., and M.E.) See Lion and Tiger Copies. |
| OTTO LEONHARDT | Departure 26/8. (Barcelona, 2300/27) |
| UNIQUE URSULA Air Attacks | UNIQUE suffered structure damage from (?20/8) air attack. After being sighted at periscope depth explosion occurred when submarine was passing 60 feet and damage indicates explosion occurred below submarine. URSULA attacked but undamaged by impact bomb. Indication that danger greatest when sun at low altitude. Report required on return whether use of Bifocal periscope interferred with wireless telegraphy reception. (S.O.S. Malta, 2342B/27 to S/M's Malta Force) |
| Turkey, fighter A/C | To C.I.G.S. Ref. A/205 26/8. for Chiefs of Staff from H.Q., R.A.F, M.E. Consider urgent need of promise of assistance to Turkey warrants increase in fighter aircraft in Middle East. See J.P.S. paper No. 59, para. 20. (C. in C. M.E., 2350/27 to W.O.) |

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy Fleet. | TRIUMPH reports one battleship, two cruisers, ten destroyers entered Straits of Messina from Northward at 0700/26. (V.A. Malta, 1045B/27 to Admty. amended 1241B/27) |
| UNBEATEN | You now have freedom of action in area N. (S.O.S. Malta, 1103B/27 to UNBEATEN) URSULA reports swept channel only ½ mile from shore Spartivento Cape to Del-Armi and traffic liable to be missed unless patrol maintained close inshore, U-Boat was sighted coast crawling westwards. I do not wish you to maintain whole patrol in this much compromised area but when there keep close in. (S.O. (S) Malta, 2348B/27 to UNBEATEN) |
| French Convoy | Vichy convoy, 3-10 knot ships, passes N. through Messina at 1200B/2 and Straits of Bonifacio a.m./4 and are not to be molested. (S.O.S. Malta, 1115B/27 to S/M's Malta Force.) |
| Vichy Convoy Z.1. | 2 ships, DJENNE and KOUTOUBIA, leaves Toulon daylight 28th to Messina 1000/30, Point A 1600/30, Point B. 0800/1, Point C. 1700/2. Arrive Beirout daylight/3. All times G.M.T. (C. in C. Med. 1203C/27 to Med. Fleet) |
| UPHOLDER | Attacks on enemy vessels 20/8, 22/8, 24/8. Report for C.A.F.O. 1278/41. (S.O.S. Malta 1231B 27 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| Suez Canal Raid. | Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) 27/8 calm clear. (b) High level attack 0334 to 0500 by three E.A. on Ismailia aerodrome, several flares, no moon. (c) H.E. and incendiaries. (d) 16 to 20 bombs number of incendiaries unknown. (e) no Naval damage or casualties, R.A.F. damage to buildings slight, 2 killed, 2 injured. (f) 2 Hurricanes up. No interception. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1301C/27 to Admty. etc.) |
| Malta Raid. | Night 26/27. 2 aircraft over dropped incendiaries. No damage or casualties. Both JU's? illuminated and engaged by Hurricanes, and damaged. |

/Tripoli.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YARRA, operation against HILDA (Italian).

My 1947/26 and my 2335/26. Approx. position HILDA is 114 miles south of Flagstaff on jetty. Approach Bandar Abbas as early as possible after dark/27. After capturing HILDA tow her to Karachi. If possible be out of sight of Bandar Abbas with your tow by daylight/28. Probable that enemy will try to sabotage ships by setting fire to officers quarters and superstructure. Be prepared to deal with this. (S.N.O. P.G., 0116Z/27 to YARRA).

VOYAGER.

Left Colombo 0230Z/27 for Singapore, E.T.A. 0300/1. (C. in C. E.I., 0346Z/27 to C. in C. China).

EL MADINA.

Your 1222/26 loss of speed on 2 voyages due to indifferent engine room appointment on each occasion. New crew supplied no further trouble now anticipated. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 0803Z/27 to C. in C. E.I.).

Iran, KANIMBLA, SHOREHAM, COCKCHAFER.

(1) Anglo Iranian Oil Company's Officials at Bandar Mashur are being threatened with arrest. Have ordered KANIMBLA to land detachment to assist Military and ordered SHOREHAM to Bandar Shahpur. Indications that Iranian resistance may increase.
(2) Am supporting Army plans up Karun River with COCKCHAFER, River steamers and Eurekas.
(3) All quiet in Abadan Island where population appear to welcome our arrival since most territory Arabian. (S.N.O. P.G., 1012/27).
N.I.D. Comment. Bandar Mashur is 15 miles S.W. of Bandar Shahpur.

Iraq.

Situation. (General, Iraq, 1105/27 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

ANSON fuelling.

Intend detaining BRITISH MERCHANT 24 hours for purpose of fuelling ANSON. Informed British Tanker Co., Wrightson, consulted and agree. (Cdre. R.I.N., 1132/27 to Admty.)

/CONGELLA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.-Contd.

CONGELLA. Your 1825/26. CONGELLA arrived Colombo 18/8 from Durban as reported in N.C.S.O. Colombo's 1414/18. This ship was not reported overdue at Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 1202Z/27 to Admty.)

LUCIA. Ref. N.O.I.C. Massowa 1152/26 (N.T. in W.D) para. (1) (B) Not considered necessary to keep stock of Welsh Coal for Taikoo only; para. (1) (C) LUCIA has now left Massowa and will be refitting for at least 2 months after which her movements are uncertain. (C. in C. E.I., 1214Z/27 to Admty.)

WEST ZEDA. Have you any news of American WEST ZEDA from Suez due 22/8. (D.T.D. 1251A/27 to N.C.S.O. Aden.) Reply: 1548/28.

Plans. Commitments in event of a Far East War. (C. in C. E.I., 1314Z/27, 1320Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. China). See Operations Volume.

Abadan fuelling. Cancel my 1253A/24. (4th Sea Lord 1337A/27 to C. in C. E.I.)

ANTENOR. CORFU. Your 1709/22 (1) ANTENOR selected to return to trading (2) ANTENOR due Colombo about 4/9 from escort, require to lift turbine. CORFU due Colombo 16/9 after completing gun trials at Trincomalee. (3) Crew composed of Officers and men awaiting passage Home have already joined CORFU at Calcutta and she expects to sail 9/9. (4) Propose to let present crew in CORFU steam ship to Colombo where ANTENOR's crew will take over. CORFU's crew to be found freighter passage home to U.K. as soon as possible as they have already been waiting for 3 months at Colombo. (5) F.O.C.R.I.N. to be requested to arrange a crew to steam ANTENOR to fitting out port. (C. in C. E.I., 1434Z/27 to Admty.)

Iran Mobilization. 1. General mobilization orders issued today. 2. Unconfirmed reports split between Crown Prince and Shah and possible coup d'etat. 3. Influential British business men and others state that Teheran population is terrified at prospects of Russian occupation and would welcome British Troops temporarily as protection.
(M.A. Teheran, 1545/27 to General, Iraq.)

/Madagascar.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.8.1941. Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Madagascar Reunion. | Policy towards Free French. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1715A/27 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A). See Operations Volume. |
| Persian Gunboats. | Your 1218/26. It must be assumed that these ships will be returned to the Persians as soon as the latter come to heel. (1st S.L., 1825A/27 to C. in C. E.I.) |
| Movements. | Request Admty. may be kept informed of movements of H.M. Ships under your command. N.O.I.C. Aden's 1250/21 and 0315/22 reported CORNWALL and COLOMBO leaving Aden but we have no information of their present whereabouts. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2210A/27 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: 1318Z/28. |

### China.

| | |
|---|---|
| Fuelling Base. | Reply to Admty. 1409/23. (C. in C. China, 0431Z/27) See Operations Volume. |

### America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| T.C.12B, route possibly compromised. | Route of T.C.12B has been passed by A.O.C. E.A.C. in P/L T/P to C.C.N.F. for R.C.A.F. GANDER. T/P line passes through Western Union Offices at Halifax and St. Johns and possibility exists that route could have thus been compromised. Details were route of T.C.12B from 41.17 W. to position P and onwards course. (C.C.N.F., 0058Z/27 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.). |

/EMPRESS.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

My 1616/26. Impossible to maintain this sailing date in view of N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1517Q/26 and 1109Q/25. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0420Z/27 to D. of S.T.)

RODNEY.

Raise steam for full speed.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0801Q/27 to RODNEY) See also 1001/27.

Suspected Enemy Cruiser.

At 0830Z, PRINCE DAVID reported unknown enemy ship in 034° 30' N. 051° 47' W. Course 140°, speed 25 knots. At 0930Z she reported lost touch and that enemy appeared a heavy cruiser. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0811Q/27 to Admty.)
One vessel, destroyer or larger warship, type unknown, bearing 165° 14 miles, course 140° (? veering 25) position (as 0811Q) (Halifax W/T 0830Z/27 to Whitehall W/T) (C. in C. A.W.I., 0838/27 to Admty.)
Proceed to patrol area in accordance with my 1202Q/18. CIRCASSIA is delayed. R/V will be communicated later. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0922Q/27 to PRINCE DAVID).

Orders to RODNEY.

Unknown enemy ship probably heavy cruiser reported by PRINCE DAVID (as 0811/27). Leave Bermuda a.m./27 and proceed at 18 knots towards 023° N. (?040°) W. Further orders will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/27 to RODNEY.)
My 1001Q/27. Propose RODNEY should return to Bermuda on completion of present duties to resume working up. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1002Q/27 to Admty.)
Bermuda departure RODNEY in accordance with my 1001Q/27. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1243Q/27 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Warships.

My 0811/Q/27. U.S. Aircraft Carrier YORKTOWN and U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN have arrived Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1803Q/27 to Admty.)

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Troop Convoys. Movement control estimates, including Australian and New Zealand Airmen proceeding U.K. via Canada, and output of joint air training plan in Canada averaging 60 all ranks each day, that accommodation for 2,000 air force personnel each month is required. Military request one special ship be allocated for above air force personnel, to be on regular service between Halifax and U.K. Believed from this end that capacity accommodation can always be used from U.K. as well as from Halifax to U.K. Assumed troop convoys will continue at regular intervals as in the past.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0931Z/27 to Admty.)

ORION. Your 1432Z/26. Approved. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/27 to ORION).

U.S. Tankers. A.M. 1230/26. Para. 1. Area. I. Task Unit 1.1.6 escorting U.S. Tankers EAGLE, W.E. HUTTON and PENNSYLVANIA due Reykjavik 0200 G.M.T./2. (D.O.D.(H) 1222A/27 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Task Force. Future Movements Area III.
(D.O.D. (F) 1402A/27 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

CARSLOGIE. Your 1629A/26. British CARSLOGIE due 10/9 from New York for convoy. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1507Z/27 to Admty.)

ALAUNIA. My 1131P/22. ALAUNIA escorting H.X. 148 and proceeding Iceland with provisions could take 45 officers and 200 other Air Force ranks. Request early confirmation that these should be embarked and that onward passage to U.K. from Iceland can be arranged. (R.A. 3., 1537P/27 to Admty.)

Ex-Enemy Ships in U.S. Service. Your 1909/23. Para. 1. Is DONERAIL MANVEL one ship or two? Para. 2. Request repetition separating names with stops. (Head of M. 1555A/27 to B.A.D.).
Your 1555/27. My 1901/23 Para 1. DONERAIL and MANUEL are 2 ships. Para 2 quotes 9 ships. Following is repetition: Italian, TYPHOON, PLAUDIT, REIGH COUNT, MERIDIAN, EXTERMINATOR, STONE STREET, GALLANT FOX, MARIA, ELWOOD.
(B.A.D., 2243R/27 to Admty.)

/Task.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Task Group 2.7. | For Operations Duty Captain. Ref. A.E.-Amty. 1/26/8/41. (T.O.O. 1435/25), Opnav advises that Task Group 2.7 contains 2 instead of 3 destroyers as originally reported. (Spenavo, 1635/27 to Admty.) |
| PRINZ EUGEN. | Your 0915R/25. These rumours are discredited. (D.D.I.C. 1655A/27 to S.O.I. Jamaica). |
| WARWICK CASTLE (collision 7/8). | My 2001/25. (N.T. in W.R). Para. (V) of your 1725/22. Sparks reports expect repairs in WARWICK CASTLE will be completed at New York 25/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1757Z/27 to D. of S.T.) |
| FORTH. TRUANT. | Your 1431Z/23. Approved for FORTH to remain at St. Johns until departure of TRUANT. Question of disembarkation of submarine gear is under negotiation. (V.C.N.S., 1956A/27 to FORTH). |
| Enemy S/M Report. | U.S. Authorities at Trinidad and St. Lucia appear to be most concerned at result of a report that enemy submarines with a depot ship are in that area. I have no knowledge of such a report. Can you say from whence it came? (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/27 to B.A.D.) |
| Galapagos Raider. | Opnav advises that Commandant of 15th Naval District confirms that no evidence of a raider has thus far been found in the Galapagos area by air R/C. (Spenavo 2325/27 to Admty.) |

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### General.

Star Shell. In view of the recent night attacks made by U Boats on convoys, it is imperative that supplies of Star Shell and appropriate charges for Q.F. 4.7. Mark IX and also 4 inch Marks IV and V and B.L. 4 inch Mark IX be sent forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A., 1034A/27 to Admty.)

### Ships Attacked.

O.S.4, SEGUNDO SAUGOR LANGLEETARN TREMODA. EMBASSAGE.

Convoy believed attacked. Moderate gale blowing heavy rain makes it impossible to give details. (WALKER, 0130Z/27, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 0130/27. My position 0230, 053° 37' N., 016° 40' W.
(WALKER, 0225A/27, to C. in C.W.A.)
Have ? broken off from convoy O S 4 in accordance with previous instructions. My position and speed are 053° 23' N., 018° 20' W., 250° 10 knots. Have following survivors on board, 3 officers 15 Lascars from SAUGOR, 2 officers 11 ratings from TREMODA.
(CHEVREUIL, 0700Z/27, to Admty.)
Your 0700Z/27. Proceed Kingston Jamaica passing through following positions (a) 051° 55' N., 024° 40' W. (b) 040° 00' N., 039° 15' W.
(C. in C.W.A., 2234A/27 to CHEVREUIL.)
Convoy attacked at 0030 and again at 0330 today. Following ships sunk. SEGUNDO, SAUGOR. Following missing: LANGLEETARN, TREMODA, EMBASSAGE, and H.M.S. CHEVREUIL. Nothing seen of U-boat in heavy weather and rain prevailing H.M.S. LULWORTH has survivors of SEGUNDO. H.M.S. ARIGUANI flew off Fulmar to attack F/W at 1010/27. Weather report.
(WALKER, 1128A/27 to C. in C.W.A.)
Detach one trawler to search for survivors of ships sunk in O.S.4 during night 26/27 to leeward of positions 053° 45' N., 016° 33' W., and 053° 32' N., 016° 47' W. On leaving O.S.4, WALKER is to report details of survivors.
(C. in C.W.A., 1744A/27, to BOADICEA.)
On return of AYRSHIRE request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE in company to unknown abandoned British ship 6000 tons single grey funnel two goal posts, deck cargo of crates, drifting in 54° 13' N., 14° 40' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1809A/27, to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1809A/27. Now proceeding to position ordered.
(ZWARTE ZEE, 2040/27 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

/Aircraft....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.S.4, SEGUNDO SAUGOR LANGLEETARN TREMODA. EMBASSAGE. Contd.

Aircraft reports 6000 ton ship with no sign of life on board drifting in 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W., at 0937/27. A good lookout is to be kept for survivors of ship sunk in O.S.4 during night/26 in approx., 053° 40' N., 016° 30' W. (C. in C.W.A., 1929A/27 to BOADICEA, BLANKNEY, DOUGLAS, GOSSAMER, STORK, HEBE, SPEEDWELL.

SOUTHERN PRINCE. (torpedoed 25/8.)

Admty., 1829A/26. SOUTHERN PRINCE E.T.A., at point of arrival 1300/28. Ship cannot anchor except in emergency as anchors cannot be weighed. Draft about 22 feet.
(R.A.M., 0107/27 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
SOUTHERN PRINCE hit within 15 feet of stem. No casualties. Parts of German torpedo recovered. Estimated time of repair 2 months. Departed 1215/27 escorted by CHARLESTON and NEWARK. CHARLESTON has defects estimated 6 hours for repair, NEWARK defects estimated 2 days. CASTLETON at Port Z.A. 3 boilers much overdue for cleaning.
(R.A.M., 1321/27 to Admty.)
Arrival and departure SOUTHERN PRINCE with CHARLESTON and NEWARK for Belfast.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1320/27.)
My 1321. Present orders are for destroyers to return to Port Z.A. on arrival at entrance to swept channel, Belfast.
(R.A.M., 1535A/27 to Admty.)

S/M. O.14.

Reported 2145/23/8 torpedo track in 58.30 N., 04.10 E., while proceeding on surface towards RUBIS. (F.O.S., 1102A/27 to Admty.)

Soviet Ship.

Soviet merchant vessel torpedoed vicinity of 69° 30' N., 35° E., 26/8. Above from Soviet intelligence.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 1610C/27, to Admty.)

SHAHRISTAN. (torpedoed 29/7.)

Arrived Clyde CORINTHIAN with 9 survivors from S.S. SHAHRISTAN.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1646A/27 to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0640. Am over enemy submarine in position DCHU NGUP. (indecipherable.)
A/C Duty E of Station LX Kaldatyes (Call sign B.8.D.)(Recd.0730/27 to Kaldadarmes W/T.)Submarine has dived in 62° 33' N., 18°05' W., DDSD. Am circling. 0640.
(A/C duty E., 0812/27.)
Following has been read. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface in position CWFM 3040. (? 1330/27) W.D.Note. Position indecipherable.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/27.)

1318Z. U Boat has made a sighting report at 1218Z/27, probably of Convoy H.X.145, but possibly of Convoy H.X.144. Alterations of course at discretion of Commodores.
(D.D.I.C. 1437A/27 to BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WINCHELSEA BULLDOG, AMAZON, GEORGETOWN, etc.) Amended 1514A/27.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy S/M in 62.15 N., 18.35 W.
(A/C duty S, 1050/27, to Kaldadarmes.)
My 1050. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C duty S,1100/27.)
Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack.
(A/C duty S, 1110/27.)
My 1050. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate 1 hit.
(A/C duty S, 1205/27.)
Suggest A/C endeavour to locate nearest Northern Patrol trawler estimated to be in position 60 miles 130° from 62° 15' N., 18° 35' W., and guide to position. If it appears surface craft unable to reach position before dark after giving due warning you should sink U/Boat.
(H.Q.C.C., 1500/27 to H.Q.R.A.F., Iceland.)
Hudson N F/269, U boat on surface 62.43 N., 18.55 W., 0730 hours 100 ft.D.ICE/G1/27/8. Sea very rough. Vis. 2-12 miles,cloud base 800 ft., showery.

/4 depth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.8.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.
Contd.

4 depth charges failed to release L 1 first sighted as swirl and wake at 0640 at 800 yards ahead on U boat course 340° T sighted on surface at 0730 at one 8 mile on port bow, 1 U boat course 090°.T 5 4 hours 50 mins. S. First sighted swirl and wake from U boat at 0640 at R 800 yards ahead during rain squall. 2 smoke floats were dropped, but these were not seen to have marked position. Aircraft commenced square search at 0730. U boat sighted in approx., same position on surface at 1 mile on port bow. Aircraft turned and dived from 800 ft. to 100 ft. to drop 4 D/C's, all of which failed to release. Photo taken of swirl caused by U boat diving. Aircraft continued square search till 1220, nothing else sighted. (R.A.F., Iceland, 2045/27 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations "Dervish" & "Strength".

SHROPSHIRE is to take the place of LONDON as cruiser of Force L.

British Air Operations.

Small attacks were made last night on targets at Dunkirk, Boulogne and Ostend.

Blenheims with fighter escort attacked the docks and shipping at Rotterdam today. Direct hits are claimed on two large ships.

Enemy Air Operations.

Milford Haven area.

S.S. DONOVANIA was attacked off Milford Haven this evening; the ship was seriously damaged, and she anchored in the convoy anchorage. Attacks on shipping occurred near Milford Haven at dusk on 24/8 and 25/8 and there was a raid in the Milford Haven area on the night of 26/8.

Mining.

17 aircraft laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Jade River.

/Minelaying.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off the Tyne and Tees and from Whitby to Cromer.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven.

South Atlantic.

Raider search.

Following on the sighting of a raider this afternoon in the North Atlantic by an U.S. aircraft DORSETSHIRE, EAGLE and NEWCASTLE were ordered to proceed from Freetown towards St. Paul's Rocks.

C. in C. S.A. reports that a Hurricane on 22/8 shot down in Sierra Leone territory a Vichy French Glen Martin A/C which had appeared over Freetown shortly before.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Shipping.

At 0559 today the convoy attacked yesterday by Swordfish was sighted 25 miles E.N.E. of Kerkenah complete and steering S.E. but slowed down to 4 knots.

At 1215, 5 Blenheims attacked 2 5000 ton merchant ships sighted at 0540 36 miles W. of Sapienza steering east at 8 knots. 3 hits were made on one ship and one on the other.

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

**Air Attacks on Shipping Contd.**

Italian SICILIA made S O S at 1402B today in 35° 38' N. 21° 6' E., after attack by aircraft, and ALFREDO ORIANI made S O S in 36° 0' N. 21° 30' E. at some time unknown.

**Railway damaged.**

UTMOST today severely damaged or destroyed a railway bridge on the west coast of the Gulf of Taranto.

**Libya & Western Desert.**

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. Bardia was bombed by one Blenheim today, and 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons of bombs on a stores dump near the place.

**Egypt & Canal Area.**

There were air raids on Suez, Port Said, Abu Sultan and Kantara early this morning. No service damage or casualties were caused other than the destruction of some trucks of ammunition at Abu Sultan.

**Crete area.**

It is reported that RORQUAL sank an enemy motor ship, believed to be of the same class as the Italian REMO (9780 tons) off the west coast of Crete.
RORQUAL also laid a minefield (see C. in C. Med. 2359C/29.)

East Indies.

**Shatt-el-Arab.**

C. in C. E.I. has asked that in view of the vital importance of the waterways of the Shatt-el-Arab no Armistice terms so far as they affect this area will be arranged with the Persians without consultation with the Naval authorities. He has informed the Admiralty of the measures necessary to secure our interests.

The Shah ordered cessation of all resistance this morning.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### America and West Indies.

**Raider sighted.**

Following on PRINCE DAVID's sighting of a supposed raider yesterday, an A/C from U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP reported an unknown ship, possibly HIPPER class, at 1330Z today in 26° 13' N. 57° 47' W. (550 miles S.E. of Bermuda) steering 160° at about 20 knots. RODNEY has been ordered to take the necessary action and DIOMEDE, which has just completed refit at Bermuda, was ordered to steer towards 20° N. 60° W., but had to return to Bermuda with defects. Shipping in the area has been diverted.

**Galapagos area.**

With reference to the reports of a raider in the Galapagos area, DESPATCH which left Balboa at 1700Z/26 is to remain in the Pacific until further orders, as PRINCE HENRY's armament is likely to be inferior to the raider's.

### U-Boat Campaign.

**Convoy O.S.4**

WALKER reported OTAIO which had just been dispersed from Convoy O.S.4 torpedoed in 52° 16' N 18° 12' W. at 1555A today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/Ms for Mediterranean. Your 1022A/27. Proposals for TRUSTY, THORN and P.31 approved. Polish authorities are being consulted regarding SOKOL. (1st S.L. 0159A/28 to F.O.S.)

EURYALUS. Your 1315A/25, para. 2. (Ready for service) 25/9 at Scapa. (V.A. 2., 1231A/28 to Adty.)

Iceland. Adty. 2258A/24. Turn-round and repair of shipping. Situation and prospects. (A.C.I.C. 1237/28). See Lion Copy.

M/S Trawlers for Mombasa. A.M. 1933A/26. If it is intended that KENNET, AIGLON, POST BOY, MYRLAND, ESTRELLA DEL NORTE should sail from Londonderry request they may be made thoroughly efficient and supplied with suitable coal before arrival. Reasons. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1523A/28).

Clyde Labour Dispute. My 1930A/25 and 2201A/26. Risk of general stoppage of boilermakers is now most unlikely, and boilermakers work in yards concerned with T.L.C's. is expected to be resumed tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2259A/28 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Spitzbergen Evacuation. Your 1940A/27. Quite untrue. (S.O. Force A., 2205/28 to Adty.)

Movements.

GREENWICH. Sailed in accordance with Admiralty 1913A/18. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0456A/28).

BROCKLESBY. Return to harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 0628/28).

O.14. Sailed to R/V with CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.9's 1901/24 at 0555/28. (A.C.O.S. 0830/28).

MINERVE. You are not to enter area bounded by the coast Norway and longitude 005° 03' E. and the latitude (illegible) and 059° 24' N. (F.O.S. 1246A/28 to MINERVE).

/PARTHIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements-Contd.

PARTHIAN. My 1444A/27. For 1530A/29 read 1645A/29. (Capt. S.5 1333A/28).

REPULSE. SHEFFIELD. (Convoy W.S.11.) Admiralty 1818A/18. REPULSE with SHEFFIELD and screened by 3 destroyers detailed by F.O.C. D.F. H.F. is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 1300/29 to Clyde. Convoy conference is at 1530/30.
(ii) C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W.A. are requested to arrange A.S. air escort during daylight hours. Estimated speed of advance 20 knots. Code word "Drover".
(V.A.2., 1753A/28 to REPULSE).

CASTLETON. Am proceeding via Irish Sea to avoid gale. (CASTLETON 2225A/28).

### Operations.

A/S Patrol. Proceed to 061° 30' N. 020° W. and patrol to (?distance) 20 miles East and West from there at visibility distance. Motor launch ordered to return to Vestmann. (A.C.I.C. 0014/28 to WASTWATER, WINDERMERE).

Interception of M.V. F.O. (S) 2319A/27. Vessel is about 7000 tons and has blue or grey hull and upper works propeller just not out of water no visible armament or national markings.
(N.A. Lisbon 0014/28 to Adty. F.O.(S) 0834A/28 to TUNA).
My 1934A/27. If you have not intercepted by 1600A today proceed to patrol in the vicinity of 045° 56' N. 006° 3' W. as previously ordered, so as to arrive by 0600A/29 if possible. (F.O.S. 1031A/28 to TUNA).

Operation "Gauntlet". E.T.A. NIGERIA, three destroyers, and EMPRESS OF CANADA at Cape Gorodetski 0330A/29. Dvina Light Vessel 1300A/29. Request smaller vessels for onward transport from EMPRESS OF CANADA may be arranged from latter point. (V.C.N. S. 1206A/28 to Ad. Miles).

Operation "Iliad". Will not be carried out tonight. (V.A. Dover 1630A/28).

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations-Contd.

**Operations "Dervish" "Strength".**

My 1533A/21, para. 1. Delete LONDON and substitute SHROPSHIRE. Add SHROPSHIRE to addressees of my 1533A/21 and my 1219A/27. (V.A.2., 1633A/28).
Your 1410A/27. Arrangements have been made for (A) Russian Destroyer to meet "Dervish" at position Z.A. (1500) G.M.T./30.
(B) Lights mentioned in Admiralty 1122A/22 to be lit from sunset 30/8. (Ad. Miles 19560/28 to Adty.)
Orders for Force L. Code word "Encore". (V.A.2., 2010A/28). See Operations Volume.
My 1633A/26. "Dervish" now arrives at position Z 0800A/30. T.O.O. 1713/28. Ends.
(C.S.1., 2236A/28 to V.A.2.)

**Narvik S/M Patrol.**

My 1314C/23 and your 1255A/25. Soviet submarine K.1. sails Polyarno 2100C/28 for patrol Vestfjord and Narvik approaches. Limits of area as follows. Route. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1919C/28 to Adty.)

### British Air Activity.

**Patrols.**

"Hornli" now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1446/28).

**ARIGUANI's (with O.S.4) A/C lands in Eire.**

Fulmar N. 4072 catapulted from ARIGUANI, 1000/27 arrive Elgonton Aerodrome 1430/27 having previously landed in Eire from Ardara Beach owing to weather. Pilot confirmed position and took off 20 minutes later. Enemy aircraft not seen by Pilot but was chased by R/T control beyond R.D.F. range of app. 45 miles. (804 Sqdn. 1721/28).

**Escort.**

V.A.2., 1753/28. Expect A/S air escort by Sunderland from 1300/29 to last light.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2200/28 to REPULSE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Myggenaes Beacon unreliable.**

My 1016B/9, my 1048A/25 and my 1205A/26. Owing to recent aircraft attacks on Myggenaes, the last of which was more serious than originally realised, Faroes Lighthouse keepers have evacuated and refused to return. Hoped to make arrangements but in meantime operation of Lighthouse and radio beacon cannot be relied upon.
Request I may be informed if regular operation of radio beacon as mentioned in C. in C. H.F's letter no. 1405/HF1515 of 23/8/1940 can be dispersed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1016A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

**A/C off Orkneys.**

At 1046/28 unidentified A/C was plotted 5 miles W. of Orkneys mainland at 15000 feet on N.E. course. Fighters up but failed to intercept. Owing good visibility possible aircraft saw into fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S. 1245/28).

**Thorshavn.**

Considerable enemy air activity Thorshavn area last 24 hours including unsuccessful bombing attack on oil tanks. Civil hospital suffered from blast but no military or civilian casualties. Light A.A. in action. (O.C. Troops Faroe Is. 1336/28).

**Convoy.**

Enemy aircraft are attacking Convoy "Steward". (Liverpool W/T 2110/28).

### Mining.

**Sweep off Kirkwall.**

Estimated position 4 mine sweepers with air escort at 1630/28 58° 48' N. 2° 00' W. sweeping on a course 270° at 7 knots. (A.C.O.S. 0900/28 to CUTTY SARK) (Capt. S.9., 1035A/28 to 0.14).

**Mines off Buddon Ness.**

My 1635/26 and 2319/26. About 25 controlled mines still unrecovered off Buddon Ness. Many of these may have tails stretching in any direction. Considered to be dangerous to sweep over this area with L.L. and this has been discontinued. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1227/28).

/SOUTHERN.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining-Contd.

SOUTHERN FIELD. (M/S Trawler) damaged.

Damaged by Mine reported in my 1635/26. Will be laid up for about 7 days. (N.O.I.C;Dundee 1227/28).

Liverpool.

As from 0001A/1/9 Port of Liverpool including QZS 211 and QZS 215 will be closed from half an hour after sunset until 0700 each day. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1510A/28).

Milford Haven.

2 Ground mines self detonated as follows at 2140A and 2255A/27. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1726/28).
At 0910/28 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1728/28).

S.N. 15.

In view of lack of destroyer escort, damage to SOUTHERN PRINCE, and condition of ADVENTURE, operation S.N. 15 must be postponed. (V.C.N.S. 1935A/28).

### Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units.

Report graded B.2 states - ADMIRAL SCHEER at Travemunde, 17/8. KOLN at Travemunde, 19/8. (D.D.I.C, 1236A/28).

### Casualties and Defects.

NEWARK. CHARLESTON.

1. Request following defects may be taken in hand on arrival. (R.A.M. 0953A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

ADVENTURE.

My 1849/27. Gaugings show no change. Estimate ADVENTURE may be able to complete another operation but no guarantee can be given against stoppage of port engine. Recommend ADVENTURE be taken in hand forthwith. (R.A.M. 1258A/28 to Adty.)
R.A.(M)'s 1258A/28. ADVENTURE can be taken in hand by Liverpool and is to be sailed for Liverpool as convenient accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1936A/28).

AARLA.

(A/S Yacht) Sustained considerable damage during heavy weather last night. Seaworthiness is affected. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1500A/28).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.11.
REPULSE.

REPULSE will sail with convoy W.S.11 from U.K. to Durban and it is intended she shall remain in the Indian Ocean for some months to come. Further instructions follow. (V.C.N.S. 0028A/28 to V.A.2).
Your 1818A/18 and 1908/A/27 are being passed to REPULSE. (C. in C. H.F., 1106A/28 to Admty.)
Orders for REPULSE, SHEFFIELD, DUNEDIN and oiler RAPIDOL. (V.C.N.S. 1513A/28, amended 1704A/28 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.)
(D.O.D.(F) 1828A/28 and 1910A/28 to C. in C.S.A.)
-See Lion Copy.
A.M. 1818A/18. Fighter protection Code Word, "Miracle". (D.O.D. (H) 1624A/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

T.C.12B.

Due to arrive U.K. 31/8, comprising DOMINION MONARCH, STRATHEDEN and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. (D. of S.T. 0317A/28 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).

H.X. 144.

PANAMA missing since 18th (in) ? fog, VINLAND ordered to Belfast with degaussing trouble. ROSCAN in command of stragglers escorted by ANGLE. (S.O. 3rd Escort Group 1025A/28 to C. in C. W.A).

Iceland.

Route signals for U.S. and Icelandic Flag ships plying between Iceland and U.S. ports should be repeated to A. C.I.C. and C. in C. W.A. (D.T.D. 1216A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

H.X. 143.

Met as arranged, no stragglers, all ships arrived.
An exceptionally good convoy especially as regards absence of smoke and station - keeping. (D.T.D. 1319A/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

O.S. and S.L. Convoys.

Ref. C. in C. S.A. 2111N/26. The arrival of O.S. convoys at Southern R/V cannot be anticipated within 24 hours owing to diversion. As local U.K. escort when available is not now dependent on sailing of O.G. convoys it is proposed S.L. convoys proceed best speed and be sailed to conform with arrival O.S. convoy at Southern R/V. If necessary amend E.T.A. of S.L. at U.K. R/V signal to be made 4 days before arrival at that R/V. (C. in C. W.A., 1656A/28 to Admty.)

/CAP.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

CAP DES PALMES.

Following instructions are issued with concurrence of Adm. Com. F.N.F.L. When ready for sea and passengers embarked F.S. CAP DES PALMES should be sailed so as to join an O.S. Convoy and break off as convenient for Kingston (Jamaica). She should subsequently proceed to Tahiti via Panama Canal. CAP DES PALMES will be sailing under orders of Free French Naval Authorities but C's in C. are requested to arrange for onward routeing and facilites within their Stations. Admty. will arrange for Diesel fuel at Kingston (Jamaica) and for permission to pass through Panama Canal. CAP DES PALMES has an endurance of 7,000 miles at 12 knots and a capacity of 400 tons of Marine Diesel Fuel. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1810A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.11.
C.T.2.

Convoy D.S.11 to Iceland (C) consisting of LEOPOLDVILLE, speed 15 knots, will be ready to leave U.K. on 4/9.
2. C.T.2. consisting of PASTEUR will be ready to leave U.K. with 3,500 Service personnel for Halifax on 5/9.
3. These 2 ships will leave Clyde on 5/9 in company with DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (vide A.M. 1753A/26)
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange destroyer escort using:- (a) Destroyers of 17th Div. who will proceed to Reykjavik with LEOPOLDVILLE from position to be arranged. (b) Canadian Destroyers returning from T.C.12 (B)
5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admty. (D.O.D.(H) 1944A/28 to C. in C. W.A).

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| Suspicious Ship seen by A/C. | N.A. Lisbon 0014/28. See Home Commands, Operations. |
| French Convoy. | Passing Gib. eastbound 26/8. (D.O.R. 28/8.) |
| TAKU, O.21. | From 038° 10' 009° 00' pass through (F) 037° 00' 001° 00' E. (G) 035° 40' 003° 00' W. Proceed on surface at discretion by day when W. of 007° E. T.B.R. arranged. Report P.C. and S. and set normal watch on Gibraltar broadcast 24 hours before arrival. Estimate Netherlands Sub. O.21 passes through 038° 55' 009° 00' eastbound at 0300A/30 approx. (F.O.C.N.A. 1406A/28 to TAKU.) |
| O.24. | Netherland Sub. O.24 leaves Gibraltar 2100A/28 through 036° 20' N. 002° 15' W. 037° 30' 000° 00', 13 Knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1440A/28 to FARNDALE.) |
| DEUCALION, CORDELIA. | 302 Sqn., 1 Catalina Escort M.V. DEUCALION and 1 DR. from East, Dawn to dusk. Area covered 37.21 N., 05.42 E. to 36.28 N., 01.00 W. 1 Catalina escort tanker CORDELIA to west, 1200 till dusk, area covered (32?).05 N., 16.28 W., to 32.28 N., 14.55 W. (200 Group, 1718/28.) |
| Tankers for Gibraltar. | My 1654A/25. Names of Tankers are SANDAR and VANJA. (D.T.D. 1752A/28 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.) |

### South Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| CHAUCER. | (S.S.S signal on 29/7 about 750 miles W. of Cape Verde Islands) Is now presumed sunk by a raider. (D.S. 721, 28/8.) |
| CLOVER. | My 1324N/24 (N.T. in W.R.) Return to Freetown through Sector E. (C. in C. S.A., 1027N/28 to CLOVER.) |

/ W/T .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic -contd.

W/T Silence. CANTON reports that EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA had been instructed to break W/T silence in accordance with A.M. 0001/1/5 Section II Para.12. This is not intended to apply to escorted ships. (D.T.D.1110A/28 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Ex-Italian Ships. S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1802/27 Italian vessels in Quequen have been ordered to raise steam to sail Saturday or Sunday. They will join those from Bahia Blanca forming convoy to Buenos Aires. Argentine flag will be flown. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1156Z/28 to S.A. Sqdn.)
They should not be interfered with. (R.A.S.A.D., 1227Z/28 to ALCANTARA.)

Falklands Defence. M.A. Buenos Aires 1208/28 to W.O. (See Operations Volume.)

CHRISTIAN HOLM. Overdue shipping. My 1117/19. CHRISTIAN HOLM arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1221B/28 to Admty. etc.)

Vichy A/C, Freetown. At 1635/22 Vichy French Glen Martin which had appeared over Freetown and Harbour shortly before and been engaged by A.A. gunfire from ships and shore defences was shot down by a Hurricane Aircraft in Sierra Leone territory 1½ miles from Newton. This Hurricane was one of the four taken out of ships on passage to Takoradi on 23/6 and erected at Hastings. (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/28 to Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM. Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Rio de Janeiro 1230 G.M.T./28 and intends to leave 1230 G.M.T/30. (R.A.S.A.D. 1341Z/28 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

EXMOUTH. Your 1545A/27. Ship arrived 27/8. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1646B/28 to Admty.)

RANGITIKI, ARONDA. Your 1218/23. RANGITIKI will not now proceed to the Plate. Instead she will continue to New Zealand to load for U.K. Proposed she should be used for personnel for India instead of ARONDA. ARONDA will, therefore, be available for C.M.17. Propose she be used to capacity to M.E. (D.S.T., 1651A/28 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) See C. in C. E.I., 0818/1/9.

/Royal .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Royal Party in DURBAN CASTLE. | King of Greece etc., sailed for U.K. DURBAN CASTLE 26/8. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1747B/28 to Admty.) |
| EGRET, ASTER, BANFF, FISHGUARD. | R/V with ASTER and 3 Corvettes in 015° 15' N. 019° 23' W. at 1200/29. After ASTER has taken over escort proceed with BANFF and FISHGUARD to Bathurst. Convoy will proceed to Freetown. Q.G.B.60 to 62 inclusive does not concern you. Air escort may be expected. (C. in C. S.A., 2233N/28 to EGRET.) |
| Possible HIPPER Cruiser. | B.A.D. Washington 1930Z/28. Hold EAGLE and NEWCASTLE and order DORSETSHIRE to leave Convoy and proceed Freetown at best speed. (1st S.L. 2235A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)<br>Your 2235A/28. DORSETSHIRE is at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2147N/28 to Admty.)<br>Request you will sail EAGLE and NEWCASTLE as soon as possible at 15 knots towards St. Paul's Rocks. DORSETSHIRE is to follow and overtake after fuelling. (1st S.L. 2340A/28 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| W.S.10 X. | Arrivals 1400 DORSETSHIRE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, BRILLIANT, WRESTLER, CROCUS and CLEMATIS with Convoy W.S.10 X. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2305N/28 to Admty.) |
| M.S. Groups. | Your 1538/24/8. Following is latest information of 156th, 157th and 158th M.S. Groups. (C. in C. S.A., 2315N/28 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| TRUSTY, THORN, P.31. | F.O.S., 0159A/28. See Policy. |
| Enemy M/V's. | 036° 50' 021° 00' 041° 8 knots 2 merchant ships. (S.O.S. Malta, 0740B/28 to RORQUAL, PERSEUS.) |

/Ismailia .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Ismailia Raid. | My A.899 27/8. Para.1. Bombs dropped Ismailia R.A.F. Stn. 26/27/8 night. R.A.F. damage and casualties. |
| Suez Raid. | Night 27/28/8. About 8 enemy aircraft operated over Suez Canal Zone. |
| Benghazi bombed. | Night 26/27/8.4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1032/28.) |
| Black Sea. | Your 1828/24. C. in C. Med. is to be included in the address of your reports. T.O.O. 10340/28. Admty. pass to Moscow. (C. in C. Med., 10360/28 to N.L.O. Black Sea.) |
| PHOEBE damaged. | PHOEBE hit by an A/C torpedo 30 miles north of Bardia at 2145C/27 whilst covering operation "Treacle". She is now returning to Alexandria under own steam at about 12 knots. C.S.15 in NAIAD with GALATEA and 4 destroyers in company. Extent of damage not yet known. (C. in C. Med., 1226C/28 to Admty.) |
| Suez Raid. | Ref. C.A.F. O. 587. 1. (a) 28/8, calm slight haze (b) high level attack by 2 enemy A/C on Suez 0430 - 0520, some flares, no moon (c) H.E. (d) about 10 bombs (e) no damage or casualties (g) balloons up. 2. (a) 28/8 calm, slight haze (b) high level attack by 4 enemy A/C on Abou Sultan 0335 - 0555, no moon, no flares. (c) H.E. (d) 4 bombs from one enemy A/C (e) 3 railway trucks mixed ammunition destroyed, no damage to railway or service establishments, no service casualties (f) 4 fighters up no interception. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1327C/28.) |
| Enemy Convoy, orders to URGE, UPRIGHT. | 17-knot convoy including OCEANA leaves Naples probably late p.m./29 arriving Marittimo area mid-day/30. URGE remain Naples, vicinity north of 040° until dawn/30 then to S.E. according to programme. UPRIGHT patrol in the vicinity 038° 07' 012° 00' until fast convoy passes or until 2359B/30, then move to vicinity of 038° 09' 012° 756'. 12-knot convoy probably due Marittimo about 2000/31 and Naples mid-day 1/9. Information is rather vague. (S.O.S. Malta, 1711B/28 to URGE, UPRIGHT.) |

/HANS SCHMIDT .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| HANS SCHMIDT, (German). | Departure 26/8. (Valencia, 1752/28 to M. of W.T.) |
| Convoy attacked M/V hit 27/8. | Night 27/28, 9 Swordfish despatched 1820 hours to attack convoy 4 destroyers, 4 M.V's 10,000 - 12,050 tons steaming south near Lampedusa. 2 A/C lost formation in cloud, 1 A/C returned with engine trouble. Remaining 6 A/C sighted convoy 2005 hours. Despite very bad weather conditions, including thunder storm, a hit was made on an 8,000 ton M/V. At 1215 5 Blenheims attacked 2 M/V's sighted at 0540. 3 hits 5,000 ton ship and 1 hit on the other. Superstructure was blown off 5,000 ton ship. When last seen ship had stopped and was down by stern. Other ship result not seen. Bomb entered through deck. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1755/28, 1758/28.) |
| 2 M/V's hit 28/8. | |
| ? Enemy battle fleet. | My 1445/28. Amend para.2 to read - Evening report could not be made until A/C landed as R.A.F. ordered A/C not to break W/T silence if sighted. (V.A. Malta, 1811B/28 to Adty.) |
| TETRARCH, REGENT. | TETRARCH proceeds through 033° 26' 027° 20' thence direct to Alexandria reporting E.T.A. Submarines are not to be attacked night of 28/29. 7th C.S. LATONA and 3 Destroyers pass through 032° 57' 026° 10' at 06000/29. through (? 032°) 57' 027° 10' at 0800, thence Alexandria. (Capt. S.1., 19200/28 to TETRARCH, REGENT.) |
| SILICIA (Italian). | Made S O S in 035° 38' 021° 06' at 1402B/28 after attack by aircraft. (S.O.S. Malta, 1932B/28 to PERSEUS, RORQUAL.) |
| Syrian Ports. | Re Appt. of Kolb-Bernard. (V.C.N.S., 2012A/28 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume. |
| French and German ships. | Departure 27th, SAINT BRIEUX, French; Arrival 27th, COETLOGON, French; ELISABETH HENDRIK FISSER, German. (Barcelona, 2130/28 to M. of W.T.) |

/PERSEUS .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PERSEUS, RORQUAL. Cancel my 1425C/25. Establish patrol as follows. PERSEUS proceed through Kiaphonisos Zea and Doro Channel to area off Dardanelles north of 039° 30' N. and east of 025° 00° E. RORQUAL (A) If mines have not been laid proceed in accordance with my 1240C/24 to area P. (B) If mines have been laid proceed through 036° 00' 021° 30' and Kytheria Channel to area F 035° 54' 023° 13' 340° 40 35, RORQUAL report to which area she is proceeding. (Capt. S.1. 2230C/23 to PERSEUS, RORQUAL.)

Situation Report 151. PHOEBE damaged. Reports of sinkings by THRASHER and UPHOLDER 15/8 to 24/8. (C. in C. Med., 2354C/23 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Iran
Armistice
Naval needs.

In event of any armistice being arranged with Persia following are points upon which there should be no compromise while hostilities last.
(1) Naval base Khraftramshahr must be an Admiralty commitment and retained as such. It is ideally situated for minesweeping and headquarters on Shatt-el-Arab, has good workshops, jetties and accommodation and is ready for immediate occupation.
(2) Retention of all captured Persian ships and ships and docks.
(3) Occupation and use of wireless station at Khraftramshahr indefinitely for naval purposes.
(4) Facilities for use of all Persian ports and harbours.
(5) All navigation lights on Shatt-el-Arab appertaining to Persian to become British. It is most important that no vestige of these rights should be alienated to Iraq or to Basra port organization.
(6) Full British control of all Persian rivers (?a) in area in Shatt-el-Arab and of whole estuary Khor Musa from sea to Bandar Mashur and aerodrome there.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0235Z/28 to C. in C.E.I.)
In view of vital importance of waterways of the Shatt-el-Arab I request no Armistice terms so far as they affect this area will be arranged with Persians without consultation with Naval Authorities. Further signal follows giving what I regard as essential Naval requirements.
(C. in C.E.I., 0742Z/28 to Armindia.)
My 0742/28 and S.N.O.P.G. 0235/28.
(i) In my view we cannot return (?to) the Status Quo Ante Bellum and at same time retain security of our vital interests in Abadan and Shatt-el-Arab area. Any armistice terms, agreement or treaties which we may make with Persia should have full regard for this Governing factor.
(ii) Following are my comments on proposal in S.N.O.P.G's 0235/28:-
(a) I agree to 1, 2 and 3. As regards 2, if the gunboats are allowed to return to Persian control we will be forced to retain Naval Units in Persian Gulf which may be urgently required elsewhere in the event of a Far Eastern war, vide my 1320/27.
(b) I would suggest adding a further clause that (?de-militarised) zone be declared on Persian Bank of Waterway of Shatt-el-Arab and Khor Musa (If it is intended to retain control of Bandar Shahpur)
(c) I also agree 4,5 and 6 but consider that these matters depend chiefly upon political attitude it is intended to adopt towards Persia, which I am not in a position to judge.
(iii) As it may be necessary to deliver our Armistice terms at short notice, I request an early decision may be given to above proposal.

(iv) I assume.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Iran Armistice Naval needs. Contd.**

(iv) I assume final agreement will include some measures of control of Persian aerodromes in view of their potential value to enemy as bases for magnetic minelaying.
(C. in C.E.I., 1234Z/28 to Admty.)

**Press Communiques.**

F.O.C.R.I.N. 1230 and my 1736/25. Simla Communiques in both press and broadcast are containing naval news. May I be informed of the channel of these releases? Recommend policy should be for me to send daily communiques on Naval operations to Admiralty. News to be released as an Admiralty communique. My reasons for objecting to bulletin originating from Simla are (1) Simla are not necessarily fully informed (2) avoidance of an incident such as occurred with KIMBERLEY's action. My 1112/24/10/40 refers.
(C. in C.E.I., 0620Z/28 to Admty.)

**HILDA captured by YARRA.**

S.N.O. P.G. 2335/26. YARRA proceeded Bandar Abbas to capture Italian ship HILDA after dark 27/8 YARRA reported HILDA on fire. Not known yet whether it has been possible to get fire under control but was considered unlikely.
(C. in C.E.I., 0728Z/28 to Admty.)

**Port T.**

My 1122 25th not to D. of S.T. and your 0745/25 not to Admiralty. It is necessary to commence preparation of accommodation for ship at an early date in view of Admiralty's decision to proceed with defence of Port T. Request ANHUI or another suitable vessel may be requisitioned now and sent to Colombo as soon as possible.
(C. in C.E.I., 1308Z/28 to C. in C. China.)

**EL MADINA, loss of speed, B.M.8.**

Your 0803/27. Measures have not been successful. B.M.8 is now being delayed at least 30 hours through EL MADINA inability to do more than 10 knots.
(C. in C.E.I., 1316Z/28, to S.S.T.O.India.)

**Dispositions.**

Your 2210/27. CORNWALL towed (? CLIVE) to about 050° E., so that latter could make Karachi. CORNWALL then escorted TILAWA to vicinity of Bombay and arrives Colombo a.m./30 to dock and exchange 8-inch guns. COLOMBO arrived Mombasa 27/8 and will escort (? C) M 16 B to Aden leaving 3/9.

/KESTREL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Dispositions. Contd.**

KESTREL arrives Colombo 30/8 from Nancowry.
? EXETER escorting MAURETANIA left Aden p.m./26 due Durban a.m./3.
Force T cleaning boilers and carrying out aircraft inspection at Ceylon.
I intend to issue an occasional movement summary for ships on E.I.Stn., and this will be repeated to Admty.
(C. in C.E.I., 1318Z/28 to Admty.)

**Iran Resistance Ended.**

1052/28/8. Prime Minister announced to Majlis to-day Shah has ordered cessation of all resistance. (Britmil, Tehran, T.H.I., 1340/28, to Troopers.)

**Iran Occupation, Orders.**

My 11456/G 20/8. (1605/20.)
1. If administrative considerations permit and opposition is not considered likely to be beyond your means to overcome you are authorised to continue advance to Kermanshah. 2. Provided similar considerations as in para. 1 permit, you will take steps to occupy the whole of the Southern oil area. You will also take any action possible to prevent destruction of railway and removal of rolling stock. Latter point is of especial importance.
(C. in C. India, 1540/28, to General, Iraq.)

**WEST ZEDA.**

Your 1251/27. WEST ZEDA ashore on Abu Ail, tugs in attendance.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1548Z/28, to Admty.)

**Enemy Ships, Persian Gulf.**

Situation report Persian Gulf 1730Z/28.
(1) No further news regarding threat to Officials of A.I.O.C. at Bandar Mashur vide S.N.O.P.G. 1012/27/8. (2) Condition of enemy vessels at Bandar Shahpuras follows. MARIENFELS steam raised 60% auxiliaries successfully tried. Estimated completion date 28th. STURMFELS estimated completion date p.m./30. WILDENFELS estimated completion date 30th. HOHENFELS largest hole located by divers should be able to start pumping 27th. Italian ships can only be moved by tugs. WILDENFELS has sufficient coal for trip to Karachi. S.O.Force B 1605/25/8 refers.
(C. in C.E.I., 1720Z/28 to Admty.)

/Aden fuelling...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Aden fuelling. In order to avoid delays at Aden and to assist the position there generally, M. of W. T.,have instructed Campbell Calcutta and Campbell Capetown that colliers on the Middle East Coal Programme should bunker for the round voyage at Calcutta or South Africa.
(D.T.D. 1904A/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

Port W. Your 0911Z/25. Total requirements notified in my 1939/21 and 1330/25 together with 4 additional searchlights for Port W., have been communicated to W.O. Source of additional personnel required is under consideration by W.O.
(D. of L.D. 2338A/28, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

China.

Japanese Convoy. Between Wenchow and Foochow 23/8 convoy of about 22 Japanese ships course N.E.ly.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0724Z/28 to Admty.)

ALBERT SARRANT, French. Departure 27/8 for Haiphong.
(Saigon 0731Z/28 to M. of W.T.)

"Matador" & "Sandwich". C. in C.F.E. 1857/28. See Lion Copy.

D'ARTAGNAN. (French.) Arrived. (Shanghai, 2349Z/28 to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Enemy Ships 27/8.

Break W/T silence and report forthwith all details of enemy ships sighted on 27/8 which will help identification. Include range and condition of light. Also if enemy challenged or opened fire. Repeat your reply to addressees.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1033Q/28 to PRINCE DAVID, repeated Admty etc).
Your 0838Q/27 and 0811Q/27. Further information as to description of ship is urgently required. If necessary PRINCE DAVID must be asked and the breaking of W/T silence must be accepted.
(V.C.N.S., 1323A/28 to C. in C. A.WI).
Your 1033Q/28. Vessel sighted before dawn in moderate to poor visibility. Estimated range 12,000 yards. Vessel proceeded away at high speed. Stern view was that of warship unanimous opinion of bridge personnel. Challenge made but not answered correctly. His signal projector was most efficient. Vessel was not visible after 50 minutes. Estimated speed from plot 24 knots. Did not open fire. (PRINCE DAVID, 1545P/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ORION.

Arrival Balboa 0700 Zone + 5/28 ORION from sea. (N.C.S.O. Panama, 1155/28 to Admty).
Departure Balboa 1730 Zone + 5/28 ORION. (N.C.S.O. Panama, 2037/28 to Admty).

N.E.F. refits.

C. in C. W.A. 2305A/26. Would prefer to defer further refits of destroyers of N.E.F. until return to the Force of RIPLEY, HESPERUS or some other destroyers at present refitting or undergoing repairs. (C.C.N.F., 1237Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. Defence Plan.

Presumed details of U.S. Navy Western Hemisphere Defence Plan No. 4 have been supplied direct to C.N.S. Ottawa through you. No action is consequently being taken by Admty to provide C.N.S. Ottawa with a copy. (V.C.N.S., 1244/28 to B.A.D.)
Your 1244/28. 2 copies of plan and appendix were sent by Navy Dept. to U.S.N.A. Ottawa to be handed to C.N.S. Ottawa. (B.A.D., 2111R/28 to Admty).

/Ex-Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.8.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Ex - Enemy Ships. My 1909R/23. Vessels enumerated will not sail under U.S. Flag. They will sail under Panamanian or British flag depending on whether manned by American or British crews. Understood that following 5 vessels included in my 1909R/23 are being taken up by U.S. Army and Navy and will sail under U.S. flag:- JONNA, PICILIEN, TUNIS, MARIA, MANGALA. (B.A.D., 1415R/28 to Admty).

EMPRESS OF JAPAN. My 1757Z/27. Your 1725A/22 para (ii) D. EMPRESS OF JAPAN is due Esquimalt for docking A.M. /4. Extent of repairs required not known until ships arrival. Unless they are extensive estimate ship will be ready to sail last week September. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1432Z/28 to D. of S.T.)

S.C.42 No ocean escort available for S.C. 42. (R.A. 3 1442P/28 to Admty etc).

Galapagos. Following from Opnav for D.C. Opnav reports that Comfifteen states he has no information regarding raiders in vicinity of Galapagos. (Spenavo, 1500/28 to Admty).

Enemy S/Ms R.N.O. St. Lucia informed by U.S. Intelligence that British Admiralty believe enemy submarine and tender en route Caribbean. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1533R/28 to Admty etc).

Suspicious Ship, possible HIPPER Cruiser. Following from U.S. Authorities Bermuda. (Begins) A/C from U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP report unknown ship possibly HIPPER class in 026° 13' N., 057° 47' W., at 1330Z/28 course 160° speed about 20 knots. (ends) RODNEY take necessary action. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1622Q/28 to Admty, RODNEY).
My 1622Q/28. Steer towards 020° N., 060° W., at best possible speed.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1632 Q/28 to DIOMEDE).
Steer to pass through approx position 025° N., 054 W. U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP is being informed by U.S. Aircraft Carrier YORKTOWN now at Bermuda that you will be in this position on approx. cours 160° at about 1200Z/29.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1822Q/28 to RODNEY).

/1330G.M.T.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies - Contd.

**Suspicious Ship possible HIPPER Cruiser - Contd.**

1330 G.C.T./28 Wasp A/C in 26.13 N., 57.47 W., sighted unknown ship possibly HIPPER Class, course 160°, speed approx. (?20) knots. Investigation continuing. Admty inform Spenavo. (Opnav, Washington, 1910/28 to Admty, C.N.S. Ottawa).

A/C from U.S. Task force report ship possibly HIPPER class in 026° 13' N., 057° 47' W., steering 160° speed 20 knots at 1330Z/28. Further investigation being made. (B.A.D., 1930Z/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1930Z/28. Suggest time lag in receipt by our forces of enemy reports made by U.S. Forces would be reduced if these were made in plain language on 500 k/cs in accordance with para 5. of Admty 0142/27/4. These may have been made but no reports have been received from shore stations. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/28 to B.A.D.)

Raider reported 550 miles S.E. Bermuda at 1330 G.M.T./28. All ships to and from Caribbean Sea keep west of 065° W., when between Bermuda and Caribbean Sea. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 2052G.M.T./28 to G.B.M.S.7).

Comtask Group 216 reports succeeding (My 281910) flight at 1700 G.C.T. failed make contact and concludes speed at least 25 kts. Detailed information first contact, ship gray, fairly large, speed in excess merchant types. One pilot picked HIPPER silhouette as probable. Admiralty inform Spenavo. Sent to C.N.S. Ottawa for information. (Opnav, 2325/28 to Admty).

**LIVERPOOL.**

Your 1924A/27. Following is a repetition of my 1150R/26. (Begins) My Armuk 631. Anticipated LIVERPOOL completes ex trials in mid October. Request Admty policy re completing to full complement. No officers or ratings of ORION will be taken for RESOLUTION. 1150R/26 (ends). Anticipated date of completion was advanced because work in ship has progressed more speedily than originally estimated. (B.A.R.M., 1654R/28 to Admty).

**Shipping Routes.**

All shipping between Caribbean ports and U.K. and North America is to be routed through Monaco or Windward Passage or Florida Straits and on dispersed routes to west of Bermuda taking advantage of cover U.S. coast when this will not unduly prolong voyage. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1702Q/28 to A.I.G. 129).

/DESPATCH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.8.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

DESPATCH. Your 2142/23. It is considered desirable that DESPATCH should remain in Pacific until further orders as PRINCE HENRY's armament is likely to be inferior to that of any enemy raider. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1730A/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ST. MARGARET. PRINCE DAVID has taken in tow ST. MARGARET disabled in 29° 10' N., 46° 30' W., and is proceeding Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2202Q/28 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA. Cancel my 1202Q/18. CIRCASSIA proceed to Halifax passing through 025° N., 040° W. R.A. 3 is requested to sail CIRCASSIA for Bermuda after she has disembarked personnel mentioned in C. in C. S.A. 1127N/18. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/28 to CIRCASSIA).

New Zealand.

Service Personnel unescorted ships. A.M.1744B/16/7. Owing to shortage of passenger vessels sailing from New Zealand to U.K. and lack of accommodation in Matson liners it is not being found possible to adhere rigidly to the numbers of air crews mentioned in para (c) without unduly delaying their arrival in U.K. Every endeavour is made to keep to the rates specified. (N.Z.N.B., 1514M/28 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.S.4 (attacked 27/8).

Continue search, weather permitting 5 A/C will carry out an A/S sweep a.m. and p.m./28 passing your vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 0009A/28 to BELMONT).
No further attack was made on convoy last night. It would seem that 2 U-boats attacking (?attacked) by BIDEFORD and WALKER were only ones in touch. Homing signals were heard on 505 kc/s before BIDEFORD submarine was sighted. Weather. (WALKER, 1017A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Tanker.

A/C report at 1005A/28 (begins). One tanker appeared to be abandoned 2 miles North of H.X.144, corvettes investigating, 055° 19' N., 008° 36' W. (ends). Are tugs required?
(C. in C. W.A., 1609A/28 to BULLDOG, escorts of H.X.144).

Unknown ship.

A/C report at 0915A/28 Begins:- Sighted abandoned merchant vessel 6,000 tons in 053° 52' N., 014° 24' W., one escort vessel from convoy investigates (ends). If an escort vessel is detached from convoy she should report situation immediately. My 0929A/27 a tug is on the way to 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1621A/28 to BOADICEA Escorts of H.X. 145).

OTAIO (O.S.4)

OTAIO torpedoed in (? 052°) 16' N., 018° 12' W. (WALKER, 1555A/28, to C. in C. W.A.) British, 10298 tons, from Liverpool for Curacao and Sydney with stores and general. (D.S., 722, 29/8). My 1555A/28. OTAIO had just been dispersed when torpedoed and has (sunk?). Am sweeping in vicinity with VOLUNTEER, LULWORTH, GORLESTONE. (WALKER, 1750A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

TREMODA (torpedoed 27/8).

TREMODA torpedoed but salvable was in 054° 08' N., 015° 28' W., at 1016A/28. Tugs ST. OLAVES, SUPERMAN are being sailed from Londonderry to tow in and trawlers ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY, are being instructed to escort. Proceeding now to position of TREMODA and assist tugs to locate her. (BELMONT, 2031A/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

/ARAB's.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked - Contd.

TREMODA (torpedoed 27/8). Contd.

ARAB's 1016A/28. Request you will sail ST. OLAVES and SUPERMAN to tow in TREMODA. ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY at present patrolling in 55° 30' N. between 14° W., and 15° W., are available now as escort. Request you will arrange R/V and give necessary instructions to trawlers.
(C. in C. W.A., 2034A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Proceed in company forthwith to search for derelict S.S. TREMODA reported at 1015A/28 in 54° 08' N., 15° 28' W., After passing Tory Island you are to proceed along the 55° parallel to 55° 00' N., 12° 50' W., where ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY have been ordered to R/V with you at 1600A /29 and escort you during search. If trawlers not met by dark proceed to given position of TREMODA. Trawlers have similar orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2055/28 to ST. OLAVES, SUPERMAN).
Tugs ST. OLAVES and SUPERMAN have been ordered to proceed from Londonderry along parallel of 55° N., to R/V with you in 55° 00' N., 12° 50' W., at 1600A/29. You are then to escort them in search of derelict S.S. TREMODA reported by ARAB at 1015A/29 in 54° 08' N., 15° 28' W. If tugs not met by dark proceed to given position of TREMODA. Tugs have similar orders.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2103/28 to NORWICH CITY, ST. LOMAN).

0.S.4 — A/C reported 6,000 ton ship drifting in 054° 13' N., 14° 40' W., at 0937/27. ZWARTE ZEE escorted by AYRSHIRE left Londonderry at 2100A/27 to tow in. Proceed now to endeavour to locate this ship and report position.
(C. in C. W.A., 2325A/28 to BLANKNEY).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-B. dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1407A/28).

1247Z. — By D/F at 1247Z/28. Position of U/B was 53° N., 15° W. Reliable fix.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/28 to BOADICEA, WINCHELSEA, BEAGLE, SALISBURY, ST. MARY'S.)

1259Z. — By D/F at 1259Z/28. Position of U-boat was 51° 40' N., 18° - 19° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1450A/28 to WALKER, VANOC).

/1329Z.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.8.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1329Z — By D/F at 1329Z/28. Position of U-boat was 52° 30' N., 16° - 16° 30' W. Reliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1504A/28).

En route Caribbean. (S.O.(I), Jamaica 1533R/28) See America and West Indies.

Submarines Attacked.

By WALKER, BIDEFORD. — S/M sighted on surface by BIDEFORD at 0020/28 position 052° 25' N., 018° 00' W. Attacked with depth charges, contact lost. (WALKER, 0130A/28 to C. in C. W.A.) Sighted and attacked S/M in 052° 25' N., 018° 00' W., and made three subsequent attacks on firm contact. (WALKER, 0335A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.8.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

R/C of Brest at 0830Z today showed the two battle cruisers and PRINZ EUGEN still present all in dry dock.

A Catalina sighted at 2120 a force consisting of one large and two small cruisers steering a southerly course in 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. The force has not been identified and air R/C of the Skagerrak and Norwegian coast was arranged for tomorrow.

British Air Operations

Attacks were made by Bomber Command aircraft last night on Ostend and Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Operations

A fishing trawler was unsuccessfully attacked in Westmannhavn (Faeroes) today.

Convoy E.C. 66 was bombed at 2127 today in 54° 55' N., 1° 9' W. but no damage was reported.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.8.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft late this evening was suspected from the Norfolk coast to the Humber. The Humber was closed at 2309.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic

Catalinas

F.O.C.N.A. reports that the present state of 202 Aircraft Squadron is not sufficient to give proper protection to convoys as well as carry out R/C which ought to be done daily. He requires a permanent increase to at least 12 in the number of Catalinas based at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Force F. Search for raider.

DORSETSHIRE (S.O.) EAGLE and NEWCASTLE sailed from Freetown at 0815 today towards St. Paul's Rocks, to search for the reported raider. The force will be known as Force F.

C. in C. S.A. 1741N/29 gives the positions of the various British and U.S. forces operating in the area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.8.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

## Mediterranean

**Libya and Western Desert.**

8 Naval Albacores bombed stores dumps near Bardia last night.

**Heavy air raid on Tripoli**

A raid on Tripoli by 15 Wellingtons is claimed as the most successful carried out at a low altitude. Aircraft were over the target from 1905 to 2240/29. The whole end of Spanish Quay was fired, bombs driving off the fire fighters. One M.V. of 8000 tons was set heavily on fire, and also 2 of 5,000 tons, of which 1 exploded an hour after being hit. A petrol depot on the Mole was blown up. R/C on 30/8 showed that the 8000 ton merchant ship was on fire fromstern to funnel, one 5000 ton ship was burnt out and another of 5000 tons was on fire.

There was an air raid on Tobruk last night. Jarabut and Mersa Matruh were raided today. No damage was caused.

## East Indies

**Iran**

An Armistice was signed with Iran last night.

YARRA last night seized Italian SS HILDA at Bandar Abbas and is towing her to Karachi. The ship has been sabotaged and is still on fire To minimise the risk of political difficulties arising out of the capture in Persian Territorial waters of German and Italian ships, they are to be sailed to Karachi as soon as possible.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.8.1941.
Friday

## SITUATION REPORT

### America & West Indies

**Raider search**

Two U.S. destroyers have searched the Galapagos area except Albemarle, but have not found trace of the raider.

**Refits of S/M's.**

B.A.D. Washington, have been asked by Admty. to investigate the possibility of submarines, after refit in U.S. Ports, working up from an American naval base.

### U-Boat Campaign

A submarine of unknown nationality was reported in Eire territorial waters at 2212 today.

**China**

One or possibly two unidentified submarines were sighted today in 10° 13' N., 110° 23' E. steering S.W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

TRUSTY, THORN, P.31.

(a) Following submarines are to be prepared for service in Mediterranean and are to be sailed as follows. TRUSTY on completion working up and repair about 2/9. THORN on completion working up about 21/9. P.31 about 30/9.
(b) Allocation of a fourth submarine to Mediterranean is under consideration.
(F.O.S. 1117A/29.)

Ocean Convoys and Fleet M/S.

Fleet Minesweepers are not to be sailed with Ocean Convoys in future. (C. in C. W. A. 1449A/29.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

Narvik S/M Patrol.

Your 1919C/28. If Soviet S/M intends to enter Vestfiord, she should be warned that British Mines exist as follows. Details. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.) See Operations Volume.

Operation "Dervish".

(Ad. Miles 1936C/29) See Operations.

### Movements.

REPULSE, SHEFFIELD.

My 1753A/28. For DROVER read DIMPLE. (V.A.2. 0027A/29.)

PARTHIAN.

Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1655A/29.)

### Operations.

Operation "Dervish".

"Dervish" now expects to arrive at position "Z" 0800A/30. (D.O.D.H. 0954A/29 to Ad. Miles) (? V.A.2 1003/29 to Adty.)
V.A.2's 2010/28. Intend Force "L" shall sail from Scapa at 0800A/30. (SHROPSHIRE 1202A/29.)
V.A.2 2010A/28. Force L. expect to arrive Seydisfordjur anchorage at 2000Z/31. Request Oiler WAR SUDRA may be instructed to be under way by this time and to go alongside ARGUS after anchoring. (SHROPSHIRE 1215A/29.)
Cancel my 1956C/28. Arrangements being made (A) Russian destroyers to meet "Dervish" in accordance with your 0954A/29. (B) To inform Vian. (Ad. Miles, 1936C/29 to Adty.)

/Operation .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.8.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Operation "Iliad". If weather unsuitable tonight intend to add 30/31st August as a possible date for operation "Iliad". A.O.C. 11 Group concurs. (V.A. Dover 1053A/29.)
Operation "Iliad" will not be carried out tonight. (V.A. Dover 1657A/29.)

Operation "Acid-Drop". If weather unsuitable tonight intend to add 30/31st August as a possible date for operation "Acid-Drop". (V.A. Dover 1055A/29.)

A/S Sweep. My 1223/27th. In view of Admiralty's 1935/28 (postponing S.N.15), further special search will not be carried out until date of lay is known. Request 24 hours notice when search again required (A.C.O.S. 1122A/29 to R.A.M.)

Narvik S/M Patrol. Warning of British Mines. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Force off Stavanger. Request information whether Force reported by aircraft Catalina R 2130 can be identified. Request aircraft R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast at daylight tomorrow. (F.O.2 H.F. 2337/29 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. P R U of Stavanger and Aalborg now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1052/29.)
STAND now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1820/29)

R/C's requested. Request photographic R/C of Kiel and Brest may be carried out today if possible. (D.D.I.C. 1111A/29.)
Request aircraft R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast at daylight tomorrow. (F.O.2. H.F. 2337/29 to Adty.)

Escort. V.A.2 2010 28. Expect A/S air escort by 18 Group aircraft of one Whitley from 0800/30 to 1300/30 Belfast relieved by Sunderland until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth 1838/29 to SHROPSHIRE.)

/Dartmouth .....

War Diary. 29.8.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Dartmouth S/M Sanctuary. | Request Dartmouth submarine sanctuary from 0700 - 1800/30, from 0800 - 1800/31, and on 1/9. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1509/29 to H.Q.C.C.) |
| Attack on Enemy. | Have attacked unknown enemy 270°, 10, 62° N. 22° W. (A/C Duty Y. 1835/29 to Kaldadarmes, Reykjavik.) |

Enemy Air Activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| DONOVANIA (British Tanker, 8149 Tons) damaged on 28/8. | DONOVANIA attacked by single A/C off Milford Haven in Swept Channel at 2101/28. Serious damage to ship, now anchored in convoy anchorage. One of crew missing. Attacks on shipping in vicinity of Milford Haven at dusk on 24 and 25/8 and raid in Milford Haven on night of 26/8 indicate renewal of air attack on this area. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1037A/29.) |
| Faroes. Trawler attacked. | A/C attacked fishing trawler in Westmannhavn ? two bombs dropped. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1352A/29.) |
| BRIARWOOD (bombed 14/8.) | Details of attacks. One bomber Jettisoned bombs 1 mile away, dropped and tail burning. Small damage. No serious casualties. Four engine F.W., Condor. Cross on wings, Swastika on tail. (N.C.S.O. New York 1353Z/29.) |
| Convoy E.C.66. | Help YIELD 54° 55' N. 1° 9' W. (LEEDS 2127/28.) My 2130. One aircraft, several bombs, no damage reported. (LEEDS 2226/29.) |

Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| Isle of Man. | Douglas I.O.M. observation minefield now operative. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1041/29.) |
| Dover. | Anticipate that MINSTER will lay one mile of R mine trot on 1 or 2/9. (V.A. Dover 1117A/29.) |
| Narvik S/M Patrol. | If Soviet S/M intends to enter Vestfiord she should be warned that British Mines exist as follows. (V.C.N.S. 1553A/29) See Operations Volume. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.8.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

S.N.23 A. Intend to lay on 4/9 with PORT QUEBEC and WELLS or ST. MARYS as follows. (R.A.M. 1607/29) See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary. At 1150/29 one S.A. Mine detonated as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Shoerness 1915/29.)

Humber closed. Humber is closed to Navigation. Enemy mine-laying. Anticipate opening 1200 tomorrow. (F.O. Humber 2309/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. At 0830Z/29. (1) PRINZ EUGEN still camouflaged and in dry dock. (2) SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Faint photographs show both indistinctly, still camouflaged and in usual dry docks. U.S. Naval Authorities informed. (D.D.I.C. 1412A/29.)

Kiel. (TIRPITz). PRU Sortie at 0945/29 shows TIRPITZ has returned alongside the North Quay at Wik. No camouflage between battleship and quay and two floating cranes alongside her. The torpedo boom is open to allow passage of a third floating crane being towed away at time of photography. The port South of Wik, including usual positions of ADMIRAL HIPPER and LUTZOW, is not photographed. (PRU. Benson, 1615/29.)

EMDEN, LEIPZIG. EMDEN and LEIPZIG in Oslo Fjord 26/8. Graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1647/29.)

Force off Stavanger. One Cruiser two Destroyers position 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. course 195°. (A/C "R", 2120/29 to 18 R. Group.)
My 2120. Enemy Cruiser 10,000 tons, 2 Cruisers 6,000 tons, position 58° 58' N., 5° 20' E. course 185°. (A/C "R" 2120/29 to 18 Group H.Q.)

E-Boats. Suspected E-Boat activity (374° or 334°), Cromer 21 miles. (Nore 2145/29.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.8.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

H.X.144 B. Is to anchor Moelfre Bay and not enter (?today). (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1548A/29 to CAPE WARWICK.

F.C.Ships. Fighter catapult ships are to be sailed right through to Gibraltar when with O.G. Convoys. F.O.C. N.A. is requested to sail them with next H.G. Convoy after arrival. (C. in C. W.A. 1614A/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

H.G.71. For Commodore. Weather permitting all ships are to stream paravanes before arrival at position C. and keep then running until well clear of position E. If leading ships of columns are not fitted with paravanes, order of convoy must be changed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1644A/29 to Escorts of H.G.71.)

O.G.72. Not met. Search continues. (BOREAS, 1800A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ISAAC SWEERS, W.S.11. Dutch authorities are unwilling for ISAAC SWEERS to proceed on foreign service until certain minor alterations and repairs have been carried out. Request you will sail ISAAC SWEERS as A/S escort for W.S.11 ordering her to return from X or such position as you consider advisable. (D.O.D.(H) 1826A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S. and S.L. Convoys. Your 2111N/26. Subject to your remarks concur with C. in C. W.A. 1656A/23. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2350A/29 to C. in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.8.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ADVENTURE. Admiralty's 1936/28. Intend to sail ADVENTURE for Liverpool at 1300 today. E.T.A. Bar Lightship 1500 tomorrow. (R.A.M. 0924/29.) Departure ADVENTURE. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1309/29.)

S.O.S. Automatic S.O.S.Signal heard, Strength two, bearing easterly. (Lands End Radio 1056/29.)

DANUBE VI. Your 1418A/27. Delayed at Grimsby by damage. Will return Yarmouth. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 1555A/29 to N.C.S.O. Blyth.)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ST.MARYS. (collision.) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, and ST. MARYS have been in collision. ROYAL ULSTERMAN holed in number one hold below water line, will require docking. ST. MARYS bow buckled to (? Number 10) Station, forepeak and paint shop holed. Propose ST.MARYS proceed to Greenock with S.D.10 to effect temporary repairs. (WELLS 1945A/29.) Your 1945A/29. Approved. (D.O.D.H.2343A/29 to WELLS.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.83. Has arrived safely under Cdre. Rees, R.N.R., 16 ships, 7 Allied, rest British. Cargoes. (D.S.722, 29/8.)

T.C.12B. My 0317/28. Following are details of personnel on board vessels of T.C.12B. (D. of S.T. 0304A/29 to P.S.T.O., W. of Scotland etc.) For Commodore T.C.12B. ships proceed following destination DOMINION MONARCH to Liverpool 8. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, STRATHEDEN to Clyde. (C. in C.W.A., 0914A/29 to Escorts T.C.12B.)

E.T.A. Forecasts. Your 1920A/27. Suggest greater accuracy would be attainable if E.T.A., of convoy at dispersal point could be given in Admty., routeing signals. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1146A/29 to Admty.)

Iceland Route Signals. Your 1216A/28. N.O.I.C. Iceland and C. in C. W.A., are added to addressees in para 4 my 1914A/21. Is this satisfactory? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1428Z/29 to Admty.)

/H.X.144 B....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic

| | |
|---|---|
| DEUCALION | Arrivals FARNDALE with DEUCALION. (F.O.C.N.A. 1138A/29 to Admty.) |
| CLYDE | Your 1813A/27. In view of large mileage already run by SEVERN since refit intend detailing CLYDE. CLYDE return from patrol 11th and will be sailed about 22/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/29 to Admty.) |
| EUGENIO C. (Italian) | Departure 28/8. (Recd. from M. of W.T. at 0620/30) |
| MARIA BELMATTI Spanish, suspect. | My 1300/27. 400 empty drums were supplied by Girth Coal Company. Now understand that vessel will load aviation spirit Rio de Oro for Isle of Sal. Cape Verde Is. Owner of vessel is local agent of Spanish refinery Tenerife. Following sailing vessels same owner, 1. DELFIN. 2. FERMINA CONCEPCION, 3. ENRIQUETA. ends. (Las Palmas, 1630/29 to Admty.) |
| NESTOR ENCOUNTER to join W.S. 11. | A.M. 2258/15 para 4. Not now considered necessary to retain NESTOR and ENCOUNTER for Operation "Status". Request you will sail them to join Convoy W.S. 11 in position "X" and accompany REPULSE to Freetown. Destroyers should top up with fuel at Ponta Delgada before joining and from R.F.A. RAPIDOL subsequently. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for 2 destroyers to return to U.K. after NESTOR and ENCOUNTER have joined. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for onward passage of NESTOR and ENCOUNTER to Mediterranean via Cape at best speed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1751A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A. etc.) |
| Dispositions | Situation report No. 3 at 2000A/29. All positions North and West (i) CLYDE patrol in area bounded by 40 N., and 34 N., and 23 W. and 31 W. (ii) CAVINA patrol H.Z. 1. (iii) MARON patrol H.X. 3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1826A/29 to N.A. Station.) |

/Catalinas....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Catalinas Gibraltar. | Present state of 202 Squadron is not sufficient to give proper protection to convoy as well as carry out R/C which ought to be done daily. (? Request) immediate consideration may be given to permanent increase of Catalinas based Gibraltar to at least 12. A/T 1916/7/6 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1848A/29 to Admty.) |
| French ships. | Gibraltar 1402/29 Survey Vessel SENTINELLE Ship PLATON laden east bound. (S.O.I. Gib. 1853A/29 to Admty. C. in C. Med.) |
| BESSEL (German) | Returned to Ferrol a.m./27 where her hold No.2 is being converted into four tanks of total approx. capacity 800 to 1000 tons of Fuel. Work will not be completed in less that 30 days. (Guyatt, Coruna, 1930/29 to Admty.) |
| DEUCALION | Following information obtained from DEUCALION. (F.O.C.N.A., 2128/29 to V.A. Malta) See Lion Copy. |
| Enemy Ships | Latest information SULLBERG arrived Valencia 27th. HANS SCHMIDT for Lisbon at La Garrucha ATLAS arrived Valencia 22nd E.H. FISSER left Valencia 21st, Sagunto thence to Savona. OTTO LEONHARDT left Barcelona 26th, MAURO CROCE at Barcelona. (?SPEZIA) at Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A. 2210A/29 to S/M O.24.) |

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### South Atlantic

**Force F.**

DORSETSHIRE (S.O.) NEWCASTLE and EAGLE have been directed to form Force F.
(C. in C. S.A., 0921N/29 to Admty. etc.)

**Search for possible HIPPER Cruiser.**

Your 2340/28. DORSETSHIRE EAGLE and NEWCASTLE sailed in company at 0815/29. EAGLE had been out flying on 28th and it was considered desirable to complete her with fuel before sailing. Ships, detailed as Force F, given all information available and instructed to steer towards St. Paul's Rocks at 15 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 0953N/29 to Admty.)

**REPULSE
DUNEDIN
RAPIDOL
SHEFFIELD**

Orders re fuelling, etc.
(C. in C. S.A., 1017N/29 to Ships named.)
See Lion Copy.

**YAMAURA MARU (Japanese)**

Buenos Aires 27/8. Yokohama.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1144N/29 to S.O.I. Kingston)

**Dispositions**

Information re RODNEY, CIRCASSIA, DUNEDIN REPULSE, SHEFFIELD, MILFORD, and U.S. Forces.
(C. in C. S.A., 1741N/29 to Force F.)
See Operations Volume.

**EAGLE**

A.M. 1547A/21. Return of EAGLE to U.K. is postponed indefinitely. (D.O.D. (F) 1931A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.8.1941. Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSEUS. | Your 20010/28 acknowledged. Proceed as in my 22300/28. (Capt. S.1., 03100/29 to PERSEUS). |
| RORQUAL. | Your 19250/28 (N.T. in W.D). Well done. Proceed through 180° Gavdos and 034° 16' 026° 40' to arrive at Alexandria Sanctuary 06000/2. REGENT passing through 033° 40' 027° 26' about 02000/29 for position 035° 16' 016° 40'. (Capt. S.1., 03400/29 to RORQUAL). |
| Vichy Convoy. | 2 Vichy ships O.U. 6329 (6) No. 33 pass south through Messina at 1000/30 and point A at 1600/30 and are not to be attacked. (S.O.S. Malta, 0957B/29 to S/M's Malta Force.) |
| TRIUMPH. UPRIGHT. | TRIUMPH will make passage J to H on 31/8 or 1/9. UPRIGHT to make same passage 2/9 to arrive Malta P.M./3. (S.O.S. Malta., 1003B/29 to UPRIGHT). |
| Suez Raid. | About 6 enemy A/C dropped bombs on Suez, Abu Sultan, Kantara and Port Said on night 27/28. No damage except at Abu Sultan where ammunition train was hit and 3 trucks destroyed. Egyptian casualties. |
| Benghazi, Bardia bombed. | Western Desert, 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi starting small fires on the docks. Day 28/8, 9 Marylands dropped 7 tons bombs on stores dump near Bardia. |
| U/B attacked. | 5 Blenheims searched unsuccessfully for ship target. On returning one of them bombed Bardia result unobserved. 2 Blenheims on sea R/C attacked a S/M 65 miles N. of Ras El Milh with 4 bombs and M/G fire. Damage unknown. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1057/29). |
| SULLBERG German. | Arrival 27/8 from Genoa, Sulphate of Ammonia, 0031. (Valencia, 1150/29 to M. of W.T.) |
| THUNDERBOLT TETRARCH. TRITON. | THUNDERBOLT leaves Alexandria 19000/29 through 032° 23' 029° 38' and 033° 40' 026° 00'. TETRARCH arrives Alexandria sanctuary 08000/30 from 033° 26' 027° 20'. Greek S/M TRITON from Port Said passes through 032° 08' 030° 00' to arrive Alexandria 14000/30. Steamer LES(?B)OS and escort arrive Alexandria 06000/30 from Westward. (Capt. S.1., 12400/29 to TETRARCH, TRITON): |

/UPHOLDER.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| UPHOLDER. | Congratulations further successful patrol. Your work is excellent. (C. in C. Med., 1242/29 to UPHOLDER). |
| Turkey, Air support. | For Chiefs of Staff, re C.O.S. 163, 27/8. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1719/29). See Lion Copy. |
| Schooner attacked. | 2 Hurricanes returning from R/C rail movements Sicily attacked small Schooner 1 mile off shore 1303 hours, no damage observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1835/29). |
| SULLBERG ATLAS (German). | Departure 29th, noon, SULLBERG for Sagunto in ballast. Probable intention load iron ore for Savona. ATLAS finished loading Pyrites, expected sailing tonight. (Valencia, 2040/29 to M. of W.T.) |
| UPHOLDER. URSULA. | Left 29/8. (V.A. Malta 2053B/29 to Admty.) Steer 180° with all despatch. (S.O.S. Malta 2155B/29 to UPHOLDER, URSULA). UPHOLDER patrolling in 032° 53' 013° 50' URSULA in 032° 57' 014° 00'. Convoy passes 033° 08' 016° 25' at 2230/30 either for Tripoli (Libya) direct or via Khoms to arrive 0730/31 speed 17½ knots, times quoted thought to be minus 2 hours but may be G.M.T. Tripoli (Libya) is providing air and surface escort. Leave positions 1000B/31 and do not come into periscope depth for routines after diving on 31st. (S.O.S. Malta, 2301B/29 to UPHOLDER, URSULA) |
| RORQUAL. THUNDERBOLT. | My 03400/29. Keep north of 034° 05' until 12000/31. THUNDERBOLT routed from 032° 23' 029° 28' to 033° 40' 026° 00' thence to (?222°) passing through latter position about 23000/31. Vichy repatriate Convoy passing through position 180° Gavdo 10 as follows: Westbound 3 ships 10 knots at 14000/31. Eastbound 2 ships at 11000/1. Do not molest. (Capt. S.1. 22370/29 to RORQUAL). |
| Situation report 132. | Operation "Guillotine" completed. French repatriation convoy C. has left Beirut. (2) Central Mediterranean, see A.O.C. Med. 1755/28. 2 merchant ships west of Crete apparently bound for Benghazi attacked and hit by Blenheims from Malta. Motor ship probably REMO class steering N.E. in same vicinity sunk by RORQUAL 28th. RORQUAL has also laid minefield off Cape Skinardent, (?Skinaroo, in cable copy) (?Skinari). (C. in C. Med., 23590/29) |

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

HILDA captured by YARRA.

YARRA has Italian merchant ship HILDA in tow. Fire extinguished except in Nos. 1 and 5 holds. Some small leaks in stokehold due to exploded H.E. shell. YARRA states ship in good condition except superstructure. Tug with fire apparatus being sent to assist. Have ordered YARRA to tow HILDA towards Bahrein.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0114Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)
My 0114/29. YARRA now reports all fires will be extinguished putting HILDA in tow astern by noon/29. Leakage stopped. Superstructure destroyed, main engine repairs plotted. Ship can be steered. Starboard anchor and cable slipped. Bulkhead intact. Speed of towing 6 knots. Have ordered YARRA to tow towards Karachi.
(S.N.O.P.G. 0907Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

BARPETA, LAWRENCE.

Instruct BARPETA to call Bushire in normal manner and then proceed on normal itinerary. LAWRENCE proceed Bandarshahpur after completing with oil fuel from FRIESLAND. (S.N.O.P.G., 0141Z/29 to LAWRENCE.)

Iran Armistice.

I have just returned from operations up Karun River. You will probably have heard that an armistice has been signed with Iran. No details yet available. (S.N.O.P.G., 0152Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

ATREUS.

Ref. ATREUS letter 513 of 25/-/41 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow concerning condition of ATREUS. Understood that possible service of ATREUS precludes her disembarking her cargo and being taken in hand for necessary hull repairs. Suggested that consideration be given to the provision of another ship before next April. (C. in C. E.I., 0624Z/29 to Admty).

S.S.CASCADE.

Your 1027/28 CASCADE due to fire in cargo sunk by gun fire on 22nd as ship was unsalvable and dangerous to navigation. All confidential books burnt in ship. Crew saved and landed in Calcutta 23rd. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1159Z/29 to S.O.(I) Bombay).

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Troop Transport. | War Office have requested movement of 4172 troops of Gold Coast Brigade from Berbera to West Africa. Earliest possible date of embarkation 12/10. (D.O.D. (F) 1228A/29 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.) |
| EL MADINA, loss of speed in B.M.8. | Your 1316/28 and my 0803/27. In future ship will be included in slow convoy only till such time as normal performance can be guaranteed. (S.S.T.O., India, 12502/29 to C. in C. E.I.) |
| Diego Garcia. | D. of L.D. 1639A/29. See Operations Volume. |
| Iran, Armistice terms. | Terms which it is suggested should be included in any treaty or Armistice with Persia. (C. in C. India, 1656/29, 1701/29,) See Lion Copy. |
| Fairmiles. | Re maintenance facilities for Fairmiles, 72 ft. M.L.s and other small craft in event of Far East war. (Head of M., 1727A/29 to C. in C. E.I. C. in C. China). |
| Iran. | Situation and policy. (1st. S.L., 2313A/29, 2318A /29 to C. in C. E.I.,S.N.O.P.G.) See Lion Copy. |
| Ex-Enemy Vessels Iran. | Your 1720/28. In order to bring enemy vessels into service as soon as possible and to minimise risk of political difficulties arising out of capture in Persian territorial waters, it is desired to sail them as soon as possible to a British port. Make every endeavour to provide steaming parties consisting of naval or other personnel, and sail all vessels as soon as they become ready to Karachi, where crews will be provided as soon as possible to take them on to Bombay for any necessary repairs. Please report detailed arrangements. (V.C.N.S. 2344A/29 to C. in C. E.I.) |
| Press Communiques. | Your 0620/28. Presumed that Naval news released in Simla Communiques must have reached Simla through Military channels. Concur that Simla are not necessarily fully informed and also with your proposal to signal communiques of Naval operations to Admty., for release here. No Naval Communique has so far been issued by Admty., on Persian operations. (D.P.D., 2342A/29 to C. in C. E.I.) |

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

**Port T. Depot Ship.** Your 1152/25 (? 1122/25 intended) and my 0745/25. Can only take up one ship at present without jeopardising trade on China Coast. Regret cannot (?allocate) this ship to you as it is (? required for) Port W. (? in view of) Admty 1939/(?21) para C. Would not one of ships recently captured at Iran be suitable?
(C. in C. China, 0321Z/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

**ERITREA.** Shanghai arrival 29/8 Italian Sloop ERITREA.
(C.O.S. Singapore, 0407Z/29).

**Annamites Repatriation.** Re., repatriation to Indo-China of Annamites removed from the L/T ST. LOUBERT BIE and now detained at Durban. (Head of M., 2008A/29 to C. in C. China)

### America & West Indies.

**DIOMEDE.** Is returning to Bermuda with defects.
(C. in C. A.W.I.,0002Q/29 to Admty).

**U.S. Task Group.** Following received from Opnav for D.C. Task Group 2.6 discontinuing prescribed patrol and operating at discretion to regain contact, air search Bermuda to San Juan under consideration.
(Spenavo, 0437/29 to Admty).

**ARICA.** Owing to legal difficulties sail ARICA Halifax instead of New York. If she has already sailed divert her if possible. (D.T.D. 1033A/29 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

**DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.** Your 1848A/18 and subsequent signals re DUCHESS OF ATHOLL request amended programme of onward passage from Halifax may be communicated as early as possible in order that arrangements for escort may be made. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/29 to Admty).

/TULIP.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

C. in C. W.A.'s 1703B/6/8.

TULIP and CLARKIA. — Complete 15/9. B.A.R.M. requests sailing instructions. (D.O.D. (H) 1310A/29 to C.C.N.F.)

AURANIA. — Due to complete 12/9 ex trials. B.A.R.M. requests sailing instructions. (D.O.D. (H) 1317A/29 to R.A. 3).

Enemy Intelligence. — Following are results of P.R.U. Brest at 0830Z/29. PRINZ EUGEN. Good photographs clearly show vessel still camouflaged and in dry dock. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Faint photographs show both battlecruisers indistinctly still camouflaged and in usual dry docks. (D.D.I.C., 1410A/29 to Opnav).

Reports from U.S. Forces. — Your 2152Q/28. Orders for enemy reports in P/L on 500 k/cs. are still in force. On this occasion it is possible broadcast was not made because identification rests on one report by aircraft. (B.A.D. 1445R/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

RIPLEY. — Your 2305A/26 and C.C.N.F. 1237Z/28. Request early decision whether RIPLEY is to be cancelled or delayed or whether some other vessel is coming in her place. Ship is expected on 16/9 and Navy Dept. must be informed soon of any change. (B.A.R.M., 1458A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/S GVAS II. — Fell on her side whilst being slipped on Meyer and Co's. slip at St. Georges due to side block ratchet teeth stripping. Hull flooded through funnel and deck openings, but apparently not damaged. Further report on salvage follows. (Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 1523Q/29 to Admty).

U.S. Forces and Enemy Warships. — 5 submarines en route New London 28/8 in 39° 55' N., 69° 05' W. Task Force 2.6 discontinuing prescribed patrol and operating at discretion to regain contact with enemy warship reported in 26° 13' N., 57° 47' W., at 1330 G.M.T./28 course 160° speed 20 - 25 knots.
(D.O.D. (F) 1555A/29 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., etc).

/Galapagos.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Galapagos, Raider search. Following received from Opnav for D.C. 2 of our destroyers have searched the Galapagos Area except Albemarle for Raider evidence. Search unproductive. Ships are returning to Port because of low fuel. This has been passed to C.N.S. by A.L.U.S.N.A. Ottawa. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1613/29 to Admty).

M/Vs. Your 1622Q/28. Following are particulars of merchant ships southbound in vicinity. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. ,S.A. 1650A/29) See Lion Copy.

RESOLUTION A/C. My 1056R/24. (Permission to fly aircraft of RESOLUTION to Philadelphia) Permission has been given. (B.A.R.M., 1702R/29 to Admty).

S/Ms. Re assignment of American S/Ms for oversea operations. (B.A.D., 1807R/29 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Task Force. Task Group 2.5 YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROE, GRAYSON, EBERLE, departed Bermuda 1200/29 course 161°, speed 17, pending further developments. (Opnav, Washington, 1828/29 to Admty, C.N.S.Ottawa

S/Ms after refit. Requested you will investigate possibility of working up submarines after refit in U.S. ports from an American Naval Base. If agreed to, scheme would involve provision of a target and torpedo recovery vessel by U.S. Authorities and maintenance by us of some torpedo personnel and stores at the base. Latter would be landed from FORTH before her return to U.K. (V.C.N.S. 1908A/29 to B.A.D.)

St. John's N.F. My 1511Z/26 now being repeated F.O.I.C. Greenock and A.C.I.C. Red flashing light of outer Baffle St. John's N.F. is extinguished. A temporary fixed Red Light is established in its place but is unreliable. (C.C.N.F., 1947Z/29 to Admty).

T.C. 14 -T.C.15. Requirements (numbers). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/29) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.S.4.
TREMODA,
SEGUNDO,
SAUCOR and
OTAIO.
(torpedoed
27/8.)

Your 2055A/28. Received and understood my wireless receiver is out of order. Am proceeding as instructed.
(ST. OLAVES 0006/29 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)
My 0006/29 visual signal. W/T aerial now in order. Am proceeding daylight in company of SUPERMAN. Consider dangerous to move before owing to amount of ships in Lough and poor visibility.
(ST. OLAVES, 0145/29 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)
My 2055/28 and 2103/28. Tugs have been delayed, amend R/V to 055° 00' N., 014° 06' W., at 0400/30.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 0735/29, to NORWICH CITY, etc.)
Westerly gale yesterday, weather moderate now, P.C. and S., at 0845A, 054° 26' N., 013° 08' W., 234° ten knots, searching since dawn without results. Have you any further information otherwise could aeroplane be sent to assist?
(ZWARTE ZEE, 1159A/29, to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 2103/28, tugs delayed by weather, proceed forthwith to position of derelict and search.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255A/29, to NORWICH CITY, ST.LOMAN.
WALKER and VOLUNTEER lost touch with convoy in fog last night in approx., 051° 24' N., 019° 20' W., and are now proceeding towards Londonderry in company. VANOC escorting ARIGUANI and PERTH. Contact will be made when clear weather is reached.

OTAIO
(O.S.4.)
(torpedoed
28/8.)

No contact was made with U-Boat which sank OTAIO. Several U-Boats were heard using homing procedure near convoy last night but no attack developed probably owing to fog. Weather report
(WALKER, 1304A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 1015A to me only. As soon as weather permits proceed direct to position of derelict report time you expect to pass Tory Island with your P.C.and S.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1317A/29, to ST.OLAVES.)
Your 1159A/29. Continue search. Aircraft and BLANKNEY are assisting.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1523A/29, to ZWARTE ZEE.)

/ A/C report....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OTAIO. (O.S.4.) (torpedoed 28/8.) Contd.

A/C report 6000 tons ship in 054° 13' N., 014° 40' W., at 0937A/27 and ARAB reports TREMODA abandoned in 054° 08' N., 015° 28' W., at 1016A/28. Sweep through these positions with your force and endeavour to locate. Tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by AYRSHIRE has been sent first position and ST.OLAVES and SUPERMAN escorted by ST.LOMAN and NORWICH CITY have been sent to TREMODA.
(C. in C.W.A., 1724A/29 to WALKER.)
My 1304 A/29. Survivors of ships sunk were picked up as follows: from SEGUNDO, 7 officers and 20 ratings by LULWORTH. From SAUGOR, 2 officers and 3 Lascars by PERTH. From OTAIO 23 officers and 34 ratings by VANOC, 1 rating by WALKER.
(WALKER, 2039A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)
SUPERMAN E.T.A. Tory Island 2345 B.S.T. Course 254° speed 7 knots, hope to increase speed appreciably.
(ST. OLAVES, 2120A/29 to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)
Join me position 053° 51'N., 013° 00' W., at 0600A/30.
(BELMONT(?)2358A/29 to ST.LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B. dispositions.
(D.D.I.C.1421A/29.)

2043 G.M.T.

Bearings at 2043 G.M.T. of Italian U. Boat 96 V.
(D.D.I.C. 2223/A/29 to Admty.)

2212.

Following received from B.T.N.I. 110 W/T. (Begins). From Cork addressed Dublin. Submarine of unknown nationality in our territorial waters at 2212/29. (Ends.)
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2355A/29, to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

2 Blenheims attacked U/B in Mediterranean.
(See H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1057/29 under Mediterranean.)

By BLANKNEY.

Derelict not yet sighted. Attacked doubtful contact. 53.53 N., 14.24 W.
(BLANKNEY 1130A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

/By A/C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.8.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 62.02 N., 19.14 W.
(A/C call sign B27, 1450/29, to R.A.F.call sign W.9.R.)
My 1450, Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 300° speed 4 knots, have attacked S/M with depth charges, hits Nil, and no explosions.
(A/C call sign B.Z.7, 1453/29, to W.9.R.)
Hudson A/C (D.S.723.)
Aircraft's 1450. 4 motor launches from Vestmann proceeding to A/S sweep.
(A.C.I.C., 1734/29 to C. in C.W.A.)
Hudson A/C Y.269 attacked U/B with D/C's in 62° N., 22° 22' W., 115' S., Reykjanes.
No observed result. (D.S.723.)

By CHEVREUIL.

S/M Contact 050° 32' N., 026° 53' W., at 1840Z/29.
Contact lost after second attack.
(CHEVREUIL, 2359Z/29 to Admty.)

General.

A/C Attacks on U/B's.

Following is copy of signal sent Iceland 29/8.
The only information now required on form blue of U/Boat attack is:-

A. Aircraft Number and Squadron.
B. Position of attack, date and time.
C. Was U/Boat on surface, periscope depth, or below when attacked?
D. Bombs or depth charges dropped.
E. Estimate of damage.
(H.Q. 15 Group, 1710/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations "Dervish" and "Strength".

Force L. (SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, SOMALI, MATABELE and PUNJABI) left Scapa at 0803A today to R/V with Force M.

Operation "Iliad".

The forces detailed for Operation "Iliad" sailed from Portsmouth at 2017A.

Enemy Intelligence.

A convoy of 4 Transports escorted by 2 Destroyers was reported to have passed Helsingborg steaming North at noon today.

SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN were still in their respective dry docks at Brest at 1850 today.

The Enemy Force reported by A/C yesterday off Stavanger has not yet been identified, and an air R/C of the Skagerrak and Norwegian Coast has been arranged.

Convoy W.S.11.

Convoy W.S.11 left the Clyde and Liverpool today with troops and stores for the Middle East, etc.

British Air Operations.

A minor attack was made on Le Havre docks last night. 4 Hudson aircraft of a Dutch squadron attacked shipping at Kristiansand today and claim a hit on a 3000 ton ship.

A Hurricane squadron claims to have damaged 2 Flak ships off Dunkirk today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Enemy Air Operations.

3 bombs were dropped at 2240 yesterday in the Outer Harbour at Ramsgate, doing no serious damage and causing only one slight civilian casualty; and one enemy A/C was driven off at 1900 today in the Iceland Faroes Passage by gunfire from CAPE PALLISER.

### Mining.

The laying of an Observation Minefield off Newhaven was begun today.

**Kola Peniusula.** One moored mine was cut today, and several others reported, by Russian forces off the Kola Peniusula, and S.O. Force A. has been so informed.

**Humber area.** A parachute mine fell and exploded during last night close to Spurn Point Lighthouse, wrecking the accommodation buildings but only breaking glass in the lighthouse and causing no casualties. 2 Mines were exploded by Sweepers at Yarmouth today, and 6 off the Humber. The Humber was reopened at 0916A.

**Thames Estuary.** During a searching sweep today by 4 Drifters in the Thames Estuary, 11 Acoustic and 8 Magnetic Mines were detonated. H.M.D. VERNAL was slightly damaged by the detonation of one of the magnetic mines.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider Search. - Operations continued today in search of the possible HIPPER class cruiser reported by an A/C from U.S. Task Force at 1330Z/28 in 26.13 N., 57.47 W.

DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE (Force F.) are to be disposed to intercept the raider on the assumption that he is proceeding to South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE is to be detached to join QUEEN OF BERMUDA by 2/9 as additional escort for S.S. DURBAN CASTLE to Trinidad and onwards, unless prior intelligence of the supposed raider is received. (NEWCASTLE ceased to form part of Force F. on 31/8.)

GAZCON. ALBATROSS is to intercept Vichy French GAZCON which is due to sail at 2100/30 for Lobito.

Mediterranean.

Nine naval Swordfish attacked last night a 8000 ton ship with destroyer escort off the East Coast of Sicily. It is believed that a hit with torpedo was obtained on the ship.

4 Blenheims last night bombed Benghazi town and shipping in harbour. Bombs fell near a vessel at Juliana Mole.

Operation "Treacle" is completed. The destroyer supply service to Tobruk is suspended temporarily, to give fighter escorts a rest.

Egypt and Canal Area. About 5 enemy A/C attacked the Canal area last night without causing any Service damage or casualties.

CARLISLE has sailed to reinforce COVENTRY in the Gulf of Suez.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Arrival of F.W.aircraft. F.W. aircraft have been sighted on Greek aerodromes. (The problem of protection of shipping in the Red Sea consequent on the arrival of F.W. aircraft is discussed in a message from C. in C. Med. 1/9.)

East Indies.

Iran Policy. A Chiefs of Staff telegram defines British aims in Persia as :-
(a) To secure the oil fields.
(b) To secure certain strategic positions to meet a possible German attack.
(c) To join hands with Russia and secure her communications with the Gulf.
(d) To secure essential naval interests in the Persian Gulf.

Persian Sloops. As regards the sinking of the gunboats PALANG and BABR on 25/8, C. in C. East Indies, after considering the report of S.N.O. Persian Gulf, is satisfied that the situation existing at the time necessitated fire being opened on these sloops.

Defences. Local defence arrangements for certain new anchorages on E.I. Station are dealt with in an Admty. signal. A further message deals with mine watching arrangements at various ports.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Raider Search. If in company with U.S.S. WASP, aircraft carrier, RODNEY was ordered tonight to remain in touch with her until further orders. It is understood that at 0400Z/31 WASP will resume her original patrol to eastwards.

Fuelling in U.S.A. U.S. State Dept. is considering the question of fuelling H.M. ships under conditions not normally permitted by U.S. neutrality regulations. Meanwhile, special application must be made on each occasion.

U.S. Force for Balboa. C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet is to send 2 light cruisers of 7,500 tons to Balbao to constitute a Southeast Pacific Force. Their orders are in Adty. 1902A/30. DESPATCH is to operate to the northward of the Southeast Pacific Force.

U-Boat Campaign.

A total of 30 or more U-boats are known to be operating.

O.G.71. Capt. D. Greenock reports a successful ruse by GURKHA on the night of 21/8 whereby O.G.71 escaped from 5 or 6 U-boats about 15 miles distant. A corvette staged a mock battle for 10 minutes which had the desired effect of drawing off the enemy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with Russia.

Russian ships building. — Instructions as to.
(1st S.L. 1511A/30 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)
See Operations Volume.

### Movements.

D.S.11. (Clyde - Iceland Ferry) — Admiralty's 1944/28 and WELLS 1945/29.
Unless NEWARK or CHARLESTOWN can be released only one of 17th Division, WELLS, will be available for D.S.11.
(R.A.M. 0941/30 to Admty.)

PARTHIAN — Your 1125/30. 107° Start Point 11.5 miles, course 285°, speed 2.5 knots, diving. No escort in sight.
(PARTHIAN, 1253A/30.)
PARTHIAN will be exercising in Dartmouth S/M sanctuary tomorrow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1706/30.)

LONDON — On completion of practices today proceed to Akureyri, passing east of Faroes and north of Iceland.
II. Sail from Akureyri p.m./1st for Hvalfjord.
(V.A.2, 1358A/30 to LONDON.)

WELLS — Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1943/30.)

MINSTER — Your 1117A/29. Request MINSTER be sailed as convenient to Rosyth for loading and further laying work in Northern Waters.
(D.B.D., 2020A/30 to V.A. Dover.)

INDOMITABLE — Movements.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2211/30.)
See Operations Volume.

### Operations.

Operation "Dervish". — Your 2236A/28 to V.A.2. Expect Russian Destroyers to meet you at position Z.
(D.C. 0222A/30 to C.S.1.)
Scapa departure SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI.
(A.C.O.S. 0803A/30.)
My 1358A/30. E.T.A. Akureyri 1100A/1.
(V.A.2., 1954A/30.)

/Force.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Force off Stavanger on 29/8.

Your 2337/29. Force not identified.
Air R/C of Skagerrak and Norwegian coast has been arranged.
(D.C. 0339A/30 to F.O.2.H.F.)

Operation "Iliad".

Preparative operation "Iliad".
(V.A. Dover, 1700A/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth, BERKELEY, M.G.B.43.)
Your 1700/30. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2017A/30 to V.A. Dover.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

STAND and BERT in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0754/30.)

Escort.

Expect escort by one Catalina from 0900Z/31, weather permitting.
(A.C.I.C., 2349/30 to Force L.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Working of Myggenaes Beacon.

Request you reply to N.O.i/c Faeroes 1016/28.
(A.C.O.C., 1121/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Spurn Point Lighthouse.

Damaged.
(F.O. Humber, 1032/30.)
See Mining.

Ramsgate bombed.

3 Bombs dropped in the outer harbour close to the Cross Wall at 2240. No serious damage. One civilian watchman slightly injured.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 1155A/30.)

Iceland - Faroes passage.

Aeroplane apparently enemy passed over 270° 62° N. 13° W. 13 miles. Failed to reply to challenge. Opened fire. Enemy driven off.
(CAPE PALLISER, 1900/30.)

Mining.

MANXMAN

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA., 0631/30.)

/SCOTT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining - Contd.

SCOTT

Departure.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA., 0803/30.)
Route to Reykjavik and Denmark Strait for survey.
S. of A. 12 knots.
(R.A.M. 1733/30.)

Humber.

Humber is open to navigation.
(F.O. Humber, 0916A/30.)

Spurn Point Lighthouse.

During last night's mine laying a parachute mine fell and exploded within 80 feet of Spurn Point Lighthouse. Except for glass lighthouse undamaged but all naval accommodation buildings wrecked. Temporary alternative accommodation has been found. No casualties except scratches and bruises. P W S S undamaged.
(F.O. Humber, 1032/30.)

Clearance Sweep off Portland.

Clearance completed between 2° 33.6' and 2° 9' W. and 50° 20' and 50° 25' N. 1 type T mine swept, dragged, and sunk. 1 type T mine swept and sunk. Positions. Second mine had canister 2 feet long by 6" diameter attached by short line.
(M/S.13 1700/30)
My 1700/30. Cancel reference to position first mine was sunk. This mine was detonated by gunfire.
(M/S.9., 2200/30.)

Thames Estuary Sweep.

S.A. LL searching sweep carried out by 4 drifters, today off the Warp and West Swin Channel from South Shoebury buoy to West Mouse buoy. Eleven accoustic and 8 magnetic mines detonated. Details will be signalled.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 1805/30.)

Off Kola Peninsula.

Soviet destroyers cut moored mine in about 068° 45' N. 039° 50' E. today.
Admiralty pass to S.O. Force A.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 18150/30.)
My 18150/30. Further mines reported 067° 55' N. 041° 30' E. Admiralty pass to S.O. Force "A".
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 20260/30 to S.O. Force A.)

Mines reported in 68° 45' N. 39° 50' E. and 67° 55' N. 41° 30' E. S.O. Force A has been informed.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2122A/30, to C.S.1. and ELECTRA.)

/Newhaven.....

MOST SECRET

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Newhaven. — O.M. laying operation Newhaven commenced. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1945/30.)

Yarmouth. — My 1456A/30. Mine exploded inside middle. Area searched. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1954A/30.) My 1456A/30 and 1954A/30. L L Trawler exploded Red Magnetic mine as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2115A/30.)

Spurn Point. — The following six mines were detonated today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2124A/30.)

Enemy Intelligence.

The Sound. — Convoy of 4 transports escorted by 2 destroyers passed Halsingborg steaming north at 1200 today. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1736/30.)

Brest. — At 1850/30 both Battle-cruisers and Hipper Cruiser in their respective dry docks. Camouflage on SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU appears unchanged since 29/8. Some netting visible round PRINZ EUGEN. Seven probably eight S/Ms visible in Port Militaire. (PRU. St. Eval, 2235/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

CURLEW — (Motor Boat) will be delayed here for at least 10 days by defect. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth, 1030/30.)

PARTHIAN — Your 1444A/27. Arrived. Reports various defects. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1508/30.)

ADVENTURE. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1653/30.)

Derelict ship. — Derelict ship dangerous to navigation was reported in about 054° 20' N. 015° 30' W. at 1000/28. (C. in C. W.A., 2204A/30 to HAVELOCK.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys.

D.S.11. — Intend using LEOPOLDVILLE for D.S.11 sailing Clyde 5/9. Total numbers to embark will probably only be about 700.
(D. of S.T., 0439A/30 to P.S.T.O. W. Scotland.)
Unless NEWARK or CHARLESTOWN can be released, only 1 of 17th Div., WELLS, will be available.
(R.A.M. 0941/30 to Admty., etc.)
NEWARK and CHARLESTOWN detailed for D.S.11.
(R.A.M. 1914/30 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL — Should be prepared to sail with PASTEUR on 5/9.
(D. of S.T., 0440A/30 to P.S.T.O., W. Scotland.)

T.C.12B. — My 0304/29. U.S. technicians are to proceed from Clyde to Londonderry.
(D. of S.T. 0441A/30 to P.S.T.O., W. Scotland.)

Convoy W.S.11 — My 1915A/28. (I) LEGION is to sail as early as possible to overtake Convoy before reaching position (X).
(II) ISAAC SWEERS is not to accompany FURIOUS to Gibraltar.
(III) NESTOR and ENCOUNTER will join Convoy in position (X).
(IV) HIGHLANDER S.O. NESTOR, ENCOUNTER will be special A/S Escort for REPULSE and fast portion.
(V) CAIRO, WINCHELSEA, PIORUN, GARLAND, ISAAC SWEERS will return to U.K. when ordered to leave Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1021A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Admty. 1818/18. KOSCIUSZKO will not sail.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1021A/30 to Admty., etc.)
Sailed Liverpool Section W.S.11 escorted by HIGHLAND, GARLAND, and LIVELY. Codeword MIRACLE II. Cancel codeword FUNNEL. ORMONDE sailed and will part company in accordance with my 0916/29.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1701/30 to Admty., etc.)
W.S.11 Clyde portion sailed 2334/30.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2359/30 to D. of S.T.)

Convoys to N. Russia. — Standardised procedure to reduce signalling.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1859A/30 to Adm. Miles.)
See Lion Copy.

/Finnish.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Finnish ships.

ROLFSBORG, SOLBRITT, WINHA, and MODESTA now in Kirkwall are to be sent to Clyde under Naval Control for discharge of seized cargo and disposal of ships to useful employment. A.C.O.S. reports no escort is available from Scapa. Can you arrange for these ships to be brought to Clyde to be handed into custody of Collector of Customs representing Admiralty Marshal?
(D.T.D., 2154A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN EMPRESS

Due to leave Liverpool about 8/9 with Service Personnel on board. She should be routed to Halifax to disembark personnel.
(D.T.D., 1841A/30 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| ATLAS.<br>E.H. FISSER.<br>(German). | ATLAS may have leftValencia last night northbound.<br>E.H. FISSER may have left Barcelona for Genoa p.m./29. (F.O.C.N.A., 0836A/30 to 0.24.) |
| NESTOR.<br>ENCOUNTER. | Request permission of Portuguese Authorities be obtained and fuel arranged for NESTOR a.m./2 and ENCOUNTER a.m./5 at Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154A/30 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)<br>1751A/29. Intend to sail NESTOR a.m./31. ENCOUNTER delayed by defect will be sailed a.m./3 to fuel at Ponta Delgada thence direct to (?N) A.M. 1910A/28 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1156A/30 to Admty. etc.)<br>My 1246A/30. (N.T. in W.D). Add new para. (ix) NESTOR sails from Gibraltar 0001/31 routed through 036° 00' N. 006° 00' W. 036° 14' 007° 05' 035° 30' 010° 00' thence Ponta Delgada. Speed 17 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1902A/30 to N.A. Stn.) |
| CLYDE. | Situation report No. 2 at 2000A/30. CLYDE on patrol in area bounded by latitudes 40° and 34° and longitudes 23° and 31°. (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/30 to N.A. Stn.) |
| French and German Ships. | Arrivals 29/8 LE VIOLENT French, 30/8 PRESIDENT DE LAVIT French, 30/8 COURDANNES, French. Departures 28/8 JEUNE DENISE French, 28/8 THRIANTHA German, 29/8 LE VIOLENT French. (Bilbao 1359/30 to M. of W.T.) |
| DEUCALION. | My 2128/29. Portions of mine mooring recovered on remains of port P.V. of DEUCALION after explosion indicate mine Antenna type. (details). (F.O.C.N.A. 1704A/30 to V.A. Malta.)<br>Now known that DEUCALION shot down one of the Italian torpedo bombers which attacked her on 27/8. (D.S., 724, 31/8). (D.O.R. 31/8). |
| CANADA. | French Hospital Ship, from Dakar will make passage of Straits afternoon 6/9. (N.A. Madrid, 1913/30 to F.O.C.N.A.) |

/Suspect.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlactic-Contd.

Suspect Spanish Ships. — Spanish auxiliary sailing vessel MARIA BELMATTI believed will load aviation spirit at Rio de Oro for Sal, Cape Verde Is., into 400 drums supplied by German Coal Company Las Palmas. Owner-ship of ship is local agent of Spanish Refinery Tenerife. Following sailing vessels same owner-ship: ICIAR, FERMINA CONCEPCION, ENRIQUETA. (F.O.C.N.A. 2003A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

TAKU. — My P.C. and S. at 1930A, 037° 10' (?002°) 19' E. 260° 9½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300A/1. (TAKU, 2203B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

### South Atlantic.

Cable Operation. — Your 1705/27. No code word allocated for operation involving the cutting of cable by LADY DENISON PENDER unless intended by Admiralty. In my 2311/28 same phraseology was used as in A.M. 2354/19. Presume word "of" before "cutting" was omitted in both cases for brevity. (C. in C. S.A. 0317N/30 to Admty.)

SOLI. — Overdue Shipping. SOLI (Nor) due Beira 26/8 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1016B/30 to Admty. etc.)

JUPITER. — Simonstown arrival 30/8 JUPITER. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1149Z/30) W.D. Note:- From U.K. after escorting W.S.10.

BIRMINGHAM. — R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM left 1230Z/30. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1256Z/30 to Admty.)

/Force.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

**Force F., search for raider.**

Admty. 2340/28 and my 0953/29. Request information if Admty. intend to give further instructions regarding Force F. EAGLE endurance at 15 knots, taking consideration time out of dock, about 9 days. Oiler ECHODALE 10 knots available to leave Freetown 0800/31 for either St. Paul's Rock position same longitude about 008° N. in calm area arriving during 8/9 or R/V nearer Freetown. Unless otherwise ordered intend to sail ECHODALE with corvette escort to 007° N. 025° W. (C. in C. S.A. 1319N/30 to Admty.)

My 2340/28. Request you will (a) Detach NEWCASTLE to join QUEEN OF BERMUDA by 2/9 as additional escort for S.S. DURBAN CASTLE to Trinidad and onwards unless prior intelligence of supposed raider is received.
(b) Dispose DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE (as Force "F") to intercept raider on the assumption that he is proceeding to South Atlantic.
(c) Thereafter employ Force "F" as you require.
2. American Naval Forces have been instructed to destroy enemy if located inside Neutrality zone.
3. There is no likelihood of raider being larger than a cruiser. (1st S.L. 1638A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

My 1319/30. Intend CALENDULA and ECHODALE shall sail 0800/1 to "Zeal" 007° 00' N. 025° 00' W. E.T.A. 1200/4. Ships then steer 060° till 2000, 180° till 0400 and 300° until 1200 daily. (C. in C. S.A. 2117N/30 to Admty.)

**Gambia.**

Re French Glenn Martin A/C flying over. (Comdr. Gambia Area, 1505/30 to W.O.)

**BUENOS AIRES MARU Japanese.**

Left Buenos Aires 1000 G.M.T. for Kobe direct. She apparently took no fuel at Buenos Aires. A.2. Secret source reports 28 naval experts on board as passengers under leadership Kawagata, ex secretary military attache in Berlin.
(S.O.I., Montevideo 1641Z/30 to S.O.I. Kingston).

/GAZCON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| GAZCON (French) | Vice Consul Lobito reports GAZCON sails 2100/30 course 315° 9 knots. Ship request interception just outside 3-mile limit. Interception to appear genuine and warning shots fired. One rifle on board, no resistance anticipated. Chief Officer pro German. When vessel weighs signal will be made by motor car head light near green light at harbour entrance. (C. in C. S.A. 1809N/30 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO). My 1809/30 and other signals. There has obviously been much discussion on subject and possibility that Vichy French know of arrangement must exist. Possible therefore that Vichy forces including S/M might be in neighbourhood. Do not intercept inside 3 mile and preferable good deal further out, if in daylight out of sight of land. (C. in C. S.A., 2115N/30 to ALBATROSS). |
| REVENGE. VANSITTART. VELOX. | Have despatched VANSITTART to search 008° 55' N. 015° W. REVENGE and VELOX E.T.A. (corrupt group) 10 boom 0800 (corrupt group), request berth. (REVENGE 1813Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| REPULSE. DUNEDIN. RAPIDOL. SHEFFIELD. | Your 1017N/29. At present S. of A. 10½ knots estimate DUNEDIN and Oiler RAPIDOL will be 15 hours late at R/V with REPULSE. After fuelling on 5/9 propose therefore DUNEDIN part company with RAPIDOL in order to relieve SHEFFIELD at R/V already arranged and that a fresh R/V be signalled for REPULSE with RAPIDOL. (DUNEDIN 2239Z/30 to C. in C. S.A.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy Convoy. | 6 merchant ships 5 destroyers, speed 9 knots, off Kerkenah steering northward at 0900B/30. (S.O.S.Malta, 1013B/30, to UPRIGHT, TRIUMPH. |
| Port Said Raid. | Night 29/30, About 5 enemy A/C attacked Port Said. Three Hurricane sorties, no interceptions. |
| Bardia bombed. | Night 28/29. 8 Albacores bombed stores dumps near Bardia starting fires. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1109/30.) |
| FARNDALE. | Request you will sail FARNDALE by Cape route for Alexandria at earliest possible date. (C. in C. Med., 1245C/30, to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| Free French Shipping. | Letter received from Free French from which it appears that miniature French Mercantile Marine Ministry is about to come into being at Port Tewfik. Request full particulars and instructions. (P.S.T.O.Egypt 1248/30 to D.of S.T.) |
| Suez Raid. | Ref. C.A.F.O.587 (A) 30/8 calm clear. (B) High level attack by 5 E/A, 2231-0009, many flares, bright moon. (C) H/E and incendiary. (D) 4 bombs 12 incendiary. (E) No service damage or casualties slight civilian damage. (F) No fighters. (G) Balloons up. (S.B.N.O.Suez 1255C/30 to Admty etc.)Enemy A/C, crashed near Port Said, see 1111C/31. |
| Gozo Defence. | Proposed reply sent to C. in C. and A.O.C. in C. M.E. and which awaits their concurrence, re defence of Gozo and security of Malta. (Govr., Malta, 1435/30, to W.O.) |
| Vichy Convoys. | Following Vichy Convoy Routes are established. (Toulon-Beirut) (C. in C. Med., 1626C/30 to Med. Fleet.) |
| Movements. | Summary 215. (C. in C. Med., 1604C/30, 1608C/30, to Med.Fleet. |

/Vichy .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Vichy Convoy B.1. | Leaves Toulon 1200/3. Route. (C. in C. Med., 1622C/30 to Med. Fleet.) |
| UPRIGHT, enemy convoy. | My 1013B/30 and my 1711B/28. Proceed to 038° 09' 012° 36' forthwith. (S.O.S.Malta, 1629B/30, to UPRIGHT.) |
| Tripoli Convoys. | Air offensive against enemy convoys, need for improved aircraft. (C. in C. Med., 1652C/30, 1656C/30, to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| A/C attack on Enemy Shipping, Tripoli bombed. | Night 29-30/8 2 Fulmars patrolled Sicilian aerodromes 1845-2130 hours. No activity seen. 9 Swordfish shipping sweep East Sicilian coast. Located convoy 1 M.V. 8, 000 tons and destroyers. 1 torpedo believed hit M.V.column of smoke seen later. No other torpedoes released owing effective smoke screen by destroyers. 15 Wellingtons attacked shipping and other targets Tripoli. Over Target from 1905-2240 hours. Fire on Spanish quay before arrival first aircraft. Bombs drove off fire fighters and by end of attack whole end of quay on fire with billowing black smoke probably oil. First attack hit and set on fire 2 ships anchored in stream 1 of 8,000 tons, and 1 of 5,000 tons smaller ship seen to explode an hour later. At 2240 hrs.1 ship blazing stem to stern. A third medium ship hit and later on fire. Several hits Karamanli Mole. Flames later spread along Mole to petrol depot where enormous explosion and fire. Other small fires quayside, and unloading wharves. Confirmation by R/C 30/8. This was the most successful raid on Tripoli carried out at low altitude. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/30.) |
| E.H.FISSER. ST.BRIEUX. | Departure 29/8. August ELIZABETH HENDRICK FISSER-Genoa. Arrival 29/8. SAINT BRIEUX French. (Barcelona 1734/30/8.) |
| TAMPICO. Italian Tanker. | From Aegean passed Istanbul for Black Sea 30/8. (S.O.I., Istanbul, 1750/30.) |

/SULLBERG.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| SULLBERG ATLAS. (German.) | Arrival from Sagunto 29/8. Departure 29/8 ATLAS. Genoa via Barcelona loaded with Iron ore and pyrites 0035. (Consul, Valencia, 2050/30 to M. of W.T.) |
| Situation report 133. | Western Desert. Operation TREACLE completed. Destroyer supply service to Tobruk suspended temporarily to give fighter escorts a rest. 2. F.W. 200 A/C have been sighted on Greek aerodromes. CARLISLE has been sailed to reinforce COVENTRY in Gulf of Suez. (C. in C. Med., 2208C/30.) |

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1941
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

| | |
|---|---|
| Iran | Policy of H.M.G. and Soviet Govt. From Chiefs of Staff (W.O. 0015/30 to C. in C. India) See Lion Copy. |
| Iran Armistice | Recommend that clause be included in Armistice Terms that there should be no victimisation of pro-British nationals. (S.N.O.P.G., 0335Z/30 to C. in C. E.I.) |
| Military Convoys | Following are anticipated dates of arrival personnel convoys (C.M. 18, C.M. 17, W.S. 10X) for Middle East. (C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/30 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal) |
| HONG SIANG | Naval store issuing ship HONG SIANG will leave Colombo on 1/9 for service (?in) Persian Gulf. (ii) Ship will call Bombay to embark stores for Persian Gulf ships and for quick docking. (iii) Request you will report intended programmes of Persian Gulf ports to be visited. (iv) Ship only carries bunkers for 15 days sea steaming. (C. in C. E.I., 0642Z/30 to S.N.O.P.G.) |
| C.M. 18. | Escort arrangements, route, etc. See Operations Volume.(C. in C. E.I. 0700Z/30) |
| Fuel Seychelles. | Request tanker be diverted to Seychelles to replenish BRITISH GENIUS with furnace oil. Stock 30/8, 4110 tons. (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/31 to Admty.) |
| Persian Sloops. | My 2306/25. I have received S.N.O. P.G's report on this matter and am satisfied that situation existing at the time necessitated fire being opened on these sloops. (C. in C. E.I., 0720Z/30 to Admty.) |
| Port T Depot Ship | C. in C. China 0321/29. Any (? troop) ships captured at Bandar Shahpur which can be salved will become most (? valuable) cargo carriers. They would be wasted as accommodation ships. I had read Admty. decision in 1329/23 as giving first priority of preparation to Port T, and I wish to commence fitting out accommodation ship as soon as possible. A suitable ship could not be found on my station without causing immediate and serious dislocation to Indian trade. (C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/30 to Admty.) |

/SCARAB.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN. Your 1432/28. Does readiness to sail last week September mean from Esquimalt or from Halifax. (D.S.T., 0355A/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

FIREDRAKE. Arrangements should be made in FIREDRAKE to remove No. 4 gun and T.S.D.'s and fit 2 D/C throwers, additional rails and stowage for at least 70 D/Cs., to enable 10 D/C pattern to be fired. (D. of D. 1237A/30 to B.A.R.M.)

Fuelling in U.S.A. Your 1042Q/23 to Admty. Matter is under study by State Dept. Meanwhile on each occasion that one of H.M. Ships wishes to refuel under conditions not normally permitted by U.S. neutrality regulations, special application must be made through Navy Dept. B.A.D. Washington will handle this question and requests earliest possible information. (B.A.D., Washington, 1311R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Dutch Guiana, raider threat. Governor of Dutch Guiana, much concerned at report that German Raider is in vicinity with object of interfering with Bauxite Trade, requests planes from Trinidad. Have replied no immediate threat is indicated.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1523Q/30 to Admty).
Your 1430R/30 (N.T. in W.D.) British Naval Authorities have stated no such thing. Report originated in Dutch Guiana and was probably derived from G.B.M.S. I have cabled to Governor of Dutch Guiana through S.N.O. Curacao that no immediate danger is indicated.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1813Q/30 to B.A.D. Washington).

SHEHERAZADE. U.S. Authorities inform me WASP's A/C sighted empty French tanker SHEHERAZADE at 1626Z/29 in 18° N., 053° W., course 240° 8 knots. Have no information about this ships movements since she arrived Casablanca from Bermuda.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1423Q/30 to Admty).

CATHAY. Request report whether CATHAY can be taken in hand in U.S.A. for docking and refit, including repairs to leaking fuel tanks.
Ship will be available about early October.
(D. of D. 1454A/30 to B.A.R.M.)
My 1606/9, refit of CATHAY in U.S.A. in early October is under consideration. Pending further instructions work on ship at Belfast is to be limited to essentials.
(D. of D. 1455A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Martinique.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Martinique Intelligence. JEANNE D'ARC, EMILE BERTIN, LIMOUSIN. | JEANNE D'ARC returned Guadeloupe 22/8 and EMILE BERTIN re-entered Martinique 28/8. French tanker LIMOUSIN left Fort de France 28/8 in ballast for St. Thomas to fuel for trip to Caripito, Venezuela; after taking 7,000 tons fuel oil will return St. Thomas to unload 5,000 tons and return to Fort de France with quotas for July and August. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1630/30 to Admty). |
| TULIP, CLARKIA. | Admty 1310A/29. Unless otherwise ordered request TULIP and CLARKIA be sailed to St. John's N.F. when ready. (C.C.N.F., 1657Z/30 to B.A.R.M.) |
| TRUANT. | My 1748R/26. TRUANT further delayed, has had to re-dock. Now probably leaves Portsmouth New Hampshire 1/9 or 3/9. (B.A.R.M., 1810R/30 to Admty etc). Cancelled, see 0950/31. |
| U.S.N. Dispositions. | Constitution of South East Pacific Force. (1st S.L., 1902A/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.) See Operations Volume. |
| Pacific Liaison. | Liaison between C. in C. China and C. in C., U.S. Pacific Fleet. (V.C.N.S., 1952A/30 to B.A.D. Washington) See Lion Copy. |
| FORT DE FRANCE. French. | Departure 30/8, Guadaloupe 1/9. (St. Thomas, 2020/30 to D. of S.T.). |
| RODNEY. | If in company with WASP, remain in touch with her until further orders. Understand at 0400Z/31 WASP will resume original patrol to eastwards. If not in company and unable to regain touch during 31/8 report your position by W/T. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2242Q/30 to RODNEY). |

### Australia & New Zealand.

| | |
|---|---|
| AORANGI. | Your 1725A/22. Para 1 (C) Anticipate AORANGI will sail from Sydney 2/9 and arrive Halifax 2/10. Accommodation available will be signalled on departure. (A.C.N.B., 0906Z/30 to D. of S.T.) |

/U.S. 12 B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

U.S.12 B.
U.S.13
U.S.14. Your 1841A/25. Prospective dates and requirements (A.C.N.B., 1209Z/30 to D. of S.T.) See Operations Volume.

LE TRIOMPHANT. My 1234/17. Arrangements now made for fuel. (details) to be shipped to Tahiti in Union S.S. Co. ship due sail from San Francisco on 26/8. Request probable date of arrival of S.S. HAURAKI at Tahiti. LE TRIOMPHANT now expected to arrive Tahiti about 19/9. (D. of S. 1241A/30 to N.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1941.
Saturday

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Ships Attacked

O.S. 4. TREMODA, etc. (torpedoed 27/8.)

Still searching area indicated by A/C in compliance with your 1523A/29. Approx. position at 0710A, 053° 48' N., 013° 26' W. Course and speed 040° 10, visibility excellent (?) escort informed further aircraft assistance coming. (ZWARTE ZEE, 0825A/30 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Continue search, aircraft are co-operating. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0953A/30 to ZWARTE ZEE, SUPERMAN, ST. OLAVES.)
My position 1000, 154° 16' N., 012° 37' W. Tug not in sight. Altering 180° speed 10 knots. (ST. LOMAN, 1015A/30 to BELMONT.)
Have today 30th thoroughly searched area around 053° 51' N., 012° 36' W. given by AYRSHIRE's 1710A/29 and amended by AYRSHIRES 0020A/30. Nothing sighted. No report by aircraft. Can AYRSHIRE state 2 disabled ships definitely sighted in this position? Tugs expected 2000 this evening. Visibility extreme, sea calm. Area 25 miles deep was searched yesterday around position given in your 2031/28. BLANKNEY, AYRSHIRE and flying boats were met during afternoon but had nothing to report. Have sufficient fuel for further 48 hours. (BELMONT, 1346A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
ST. OLAVES 1215/30. Both tugs also ST. LOMAN and NORWICH CITY to R/V 053° 51' N., 012° 36' W. at 2000/30. (BELMONT, 1454A/30 to ST. LOMAN etc.)
If nothing sighted by dark proceed to Loch Ewe. After refuelling BELMONT is to rejoin 3rd Escort Group from Loch Ewe and escort O.N. 12. (C. in C. W.A., 1539A/30 to BELMONT.)
At 1600/29 reported wrecks 40 miles south of AYRSHIRE. Have searched all round position without result. (AYRSHIRE, 1549A/30 to BELMONT.)
Still searching area in compliance with your 0953A. Nothing to report than position at 1735A, 053° (52' ?) N., 013° 29' W. course various speed 10 knots until further directions. (ZWARTE ZEE, 2016A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Commence sweep at daylight/31 from area seaward today 30 in a direction 120° to the Irish Coast then as large an area as possible to N.E. whilst returning to Londonderry. Aircraft will co-operate. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2357A/30 to ST. LOMAN, ZWARTE ZEE, etc.)

/O.G. 71.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.8.1941. Saturday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked - contd.

O.G.71 tactics to mislead enemy, 21/8.

Following abridged report of ruse which appears to have been successful is forwarded after receipt of advance copy of C.O. GURKHA report of proceedings with O.G.71 and after consulting my signal officer who was present in GURKHA. Situation on night 21/8 was that convoy was on southerly course in approx. position 043° N. 015° W. H/F D/F bearings from GURKHA and LANCE indicated 5 or 6 U-boats were approx. 15 miles distant between bearings 200° and 270°. At 2200 Corvette was detached to N.W. with orders to stage a mock battle approx. 40 miles distant from convoy. This included firing star shells, dropping depth charges and transmission by R/T and W/T on H/F and took place shortly after midnight for 10 minutes. At approx. 0040 H/F D/F bearings and E. bar signals obtained by GURKHA indicated at least 4 U-Boats were moving to Northward to investigate. The convoy had a peaceful night. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1120/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

### Submarines Reported.

2334 G.M.T./29 Bearings at 2334 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 67 G. (D.D.I.C. 0055A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0313 G.M.T. Bearings at 0313 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 87 L. (D.D.I.C. 0448A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

29/8. Cape Verde Authorities report a U-boat off Praia St. Jago Island 29/8. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, Cape Verde 1122/30 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. A total of 30 or more U/B's are known to be operating. (D.D.I.C. 1449A/30.)

2043/29. By D/F fix reliable 035° 00' 009° 00' at 2043A/29. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508A/30 to SEVERN.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. 0.1450 Enemy Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted submarine was on course 300° estimated speed 4 knots. Have attacked with depth charges, no explosion. (A/C P.Z. L.X. Kaldatyes, No T.O.O./30 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F.)

By A/C. Form Orange ICE/01 30/8. 12 Sorties carried out A/S sweep 29/8 - 11 Hudson - 1 Northrop Hudson A/C sighted U-boat on surface in 61° 53' N. 21° 32' W., which he immediately attacked with 42 D/C (ICE/BS 1/30/8). One other Hudson sighted U-boat in position 62° 09' N. 19° 11' W. this was also attacked. (ICE/BS 3/29/8.) (C. in C. W.A., 0430/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.41.
Sunday

## SITUATION REPORT

### Home Commands

**Operation "Iliad"**

V.A. Dover reports that this operation was carried out this morning uneventfully, by surface forces. No air battle ensued.

**Operation "Acid Drop"**

This operation was carried out last night, landings were effected at both places. There were no casualties.

**Convoy "Dervish"**

Convoy "Dervish" has arrived at its destination. After fuel and short rest the escorts (3 destroyers, 3 minesweepers, 4 trawlers) are to be employed on A/S and M/S operations until departure of return convoy.

**Enemy shipping.**

Two M.T.B's left Dover at dusk to intercept shipping leaving Boulogne southwestwards; but they developed engine defects.

### British Air Operations

5 aircraft attacked Cherbourg last night.

6 Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked the shipbuilding yards at Le Trait today. Bombs burst on the western shipbuilding slips amongst ships and submarines under construction. There was no A/A or A/C opposition.

### Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy "Wheel" was bombed at 2315 in ? 50° 49' N., 4° 43' W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

## SITUATION REPORT

### Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from Fame Islands to the Humber. The ports of Tyne, Middlesborough, Hartlepool Sunderland, and Blyth were closed at 0320. Tyne Blythe and Sunderland were reopened during the forenoon.

Mines were detonated off the Nab and Falmouth, and further mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

### South Atlantic

R.A.S.A.D. (BIRMINGHAM) who left Rio de Janeiro on 19/8 is to patrol to the north eastward of Pernambuco.

U.S. Forces are patrolling ~~near Cape Verde Is.~~ from Recife to Cape Verde Is.

### Mediterranean

5 Swordfish on anti shipping search in the Lampedusa area last night secured one or probably two hits with torpedo on a 1200 ton merchant ship which was left with a heavy list.

/Libya. ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

9 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli from 2123/30 to 0040/31. One ship alongside Spanish Quay was hit and set on fire.
Shipping at Tripoli was attacked again from 1905 to 2300 today. One medium size merchant vessel was hit and is believed to have been sunk, and a second merchant vessel was left on fire from stem to stern.

Five Naval Albacores attacked supply dumps near Bardia last night.

Rhodes

Sixteen Wellingtons bombed Maritza and Calato aerodromes last night.

TASHKEND damaged.

Russian destroyer TASHKEND arrived at Sevastopol today with hull damage caused by air attack at Odessa.

America & West Indies

PRESCOTT whilst on patrol of the grand Banks area intercepted French Auxiliary fishing schooner ANGELUS and is sending her to Sydney C.B. with a prize crew.

U.S. naval forces are proceeding towards Dutch Guiana , in view of rumours of possible attack on the Surinam bauxite mines.

RODNEY discontinued at dusk today the search for the enemy cruiser sighted by a U.S. aircraft on 28/8.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

M.A/S B. Flotilla at Holyhead. — A.L. M/PD 0249/41 of 15/8. As no operational value can be envisaged for a Flotilla of M.A/S B's at Holyhead, and the difficulty of berthing an additional Flotilla of Coastal craft cannot be overcome, suggest that M.A/S B. Flotilla referred to may be reallocated to another command. (C. in C. W.A., 1437A/31).

11th M.L. Flotilla. — Consisting of M.L.'s 187, 189, 190, 191, 193, 194, 214, 230, will be transferred from Lowestoft to Humber on 7/9/41. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2101A/31).

### Movements.

H.33. — My 1204A/28. Name of escort WARRIOR. (Capt. S.7. 1019A/31 to H.33).

P.31. — S/M P.31 will be exercising as follows. (A.C.O.S., 1033A/31 to Admty).

Finnish Ships. LOBELIA. — Request you will arrange for LOBELIA to provide escort from Shiant Islands to Clyde in accordance with Admiralty's 2154A/30 and A.C.O.S. 1835/30. (C. in C. W.A., 1123A/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

SEAWOLF. — F.O.S. 1332A/30. Leave Patrol after dark 1/9 routed as follows to R/V in 050° 31' N., 000° 41' W., at 0600A/5. S.B.R. as follows. (Capt. S.5 1133A/31 to SEAWOLF).

IBIS. — Admty. 1208/15. Intend sailing IBIS for Scapa 110 tomorrow. Request fighter protection in view of being new commission. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1230/31).

FURIOUS, LIVELY, ISAAC SWEERS. — Require 12 hours in harbour to make good urgent defect. (See Casualties). Am proceeding to Bangor E.T.A. 1715A. Propose LEGION and another destroyer be detailed to escort me to follow on W.S.11 as soon as I am ready. REPULSE concurs. (FURIOUS, 1249 A/31).
Detach LIVELY to accompany FURIOUS.
(C. in C. W.A., 1512A/31 to REPULSE).
Arrived FURIOUS. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1715A/31).

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

| | |
|---|---|
| FURIOUS, LIVELY, ISAAC SWEERS. Contd. | FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY from Belfast and LEGION from Greenock to sail as soon as ready to rejoin W.S.11. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail LEGION to R/V with FURIOUS in North Channel. (C. in C. W.A., 1749A/31). Hope to be ready to sail 0001/1 at best speed up to 24 knots which endurance of Destroyers will permit. (FURIOUS, 2000A/31). LEGION not available to escort FURIOUS. Detach ISAAC SWEERS forthwith to proceed towards North Channel to meet FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY. (C. in C. W.A., 2206A/31 to REPULSE). LEGION is not available. ISAAC SWEERS has been ordered to R/V with you in 000° Innistrahull 10 miles at 1000A/1. Proceed with LIVELY in company adjusting time of sailing and speed as necessary. You are not to proceed to westward of R/V until ISAAC SWEERS has joined. (C. in C. W.A., 2245/31 to FURIOUS). |
| PARTHIAN. | Will be exercising in swept position submarine Sanctuary on 1 and 2/9 during daylight hours. (C. in C. Plymouth 1808/31). |
| PROTEUS. | Intend to sail PROTEUS escorted by WHITE BEAR at 0900A/2. Route to 43° N., 10° 40' W. E.T.A. 1700A/6. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (S.S. 1849A/31 1851A/31 0106A/1/9 and 0108A/1/9). |
| GREER. | U.S. destroyer GREER E.T.A. Reykjavik 1800 (corrupt group) 5/9. (Commander D.W. 61. 1939/13 to F.O.I.C. Iceland). |
| TEVIOT BANK. | Intend sailing TEVIOT BANK to comply with A.M. 1928/25 on 2/9 in O.S.5. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2101/31). |
| BLANKNEY. | Proceed to Moville at best speed and fuel immediately on arrival. (C. in C. W.A. 2330A/31 to BLANKNEY). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Iliad." — Carry out Operation "Iliad" Aircraft fully co-operating. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0020A/31).
Have ordered BERKELEY to return to Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover, 0909 A/31).
"Iliad" carried out a.m. today uneventfully by surface forces. No air battle ensued. (V.A. Dover, 1147A/31).
Your 1147/31. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/31 to V.A. Dover).

Biscay Patrol. TUNA. — Several U-boats are expected to make Biscay Ports during the next few days.
Leave Patrol position after dark 1/9 and proceed to Patrol near 120° D.D.81 miles, keeping clear of SEAWOLF to Southward. You may withdraw to S.W. at your discretion.
T.B.R. indicated in My 1856A/27 and 0001A/28 will be cancelled at 2200A/2. (F.O.S. 1049A/31 to TUNA).

Patrol off Ostend. — Weather permitting M.T.B.'s of unit 3 are to carry out a patrol tonight through following positions. Care is to be taken to route unit clear of M.T.B's on P.W. 18. Surface vessels met east of 2° 35' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore, 1132A/31 to BEEHIVE).
Harwich departure M.T.B.'s 44, 47, 43. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2104A/31).

Operation "Acid Drop". — Was carried out on night 30/31. Landings were effected at both places. All craft engaged in operation returned, arrived Dover between 1015 and 1115. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1146/31)

Operation "Dervish". — My 1147C/20, to which I have had no answer. I have just heard from Archangel for the first time the expected arrival there to-day of three Destroyers, three Minesweepers, and four Trawlers. Request I may be informed at once of proposed future movements of (a) LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE; as the name of the personnel ship and hence her draught was not known until to-day provisional arrangements for embarking Polish personnel in her were being made for 15/9.
(b) Destroyers. (c) Minesweepers (d) Trawlers.
(Ad. Miles, 1156/31 to Admty).

/Your 1156/31.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

**Operation "Dervish". Contd.**

Your 1156/31. Ships mentioned are all part of convoy "Dervish" and escort of whose arrival you were informed.
2. A.M. 0954A/29, 1758A/20, 1723A/16 and your 1308C/12 refers.
3. Merchant ships of "Dervish" including LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE will remain at Archangel until all are reloaded and ready to return and cover can be provided.
4. Your remarks on LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE are not understood. Is there any difficulty in using her for Polish personnel.
5. It is intended that escorts should remain until departure of return convoy.
6. After fuel and short rest C. in C. H.F. would like escorts employed on A/S and M/S Operations. Request you will arrange this with Russian Naval Authorities. (A.C.N.S. H., 1903A/31 to Ad. Miles). Soviet Naval Authorities report that "Dervish" has arrived Archangel.
(Ad. Miles 2222C/31).

**Straits of Dover Patrol.**

M.G.B.'s 46. 86, and 52 will patrol between South Varne and East Varne Buoys during dark hours tonight to cover C.W. 48 and act on R.D.F. reports from Dover W/T. The only other Patrol will be two trawlers on O.D. One.
(V.A. Dover 1235A/31 to FERNIE.)
Cancel my 1235A. (V.A. Dover, 1817/31 to FERNIE).

### British Air Activity.

**Dartmouth S/M Sanctuary.**

My 1509/29 cancelled for 31/8 and postponed to 1 and 2/9. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0038/31 to H.Q.C.C).

**Patrols.**

FATE 3 in operation until last light.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0636/31).
Patrol of Orkneys exercise area is being flown by 18 Group from 0700 till 1500.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0716/31).
P.R.U. reccos of Norwegian coast Bergen to Oslo and also of Aalborg now in operation.
-(C. in C. Rosyth, 1140/31).

**Escort.**

Expect one Catalina A/S Escort and one Hudson A/A escort from dawn/1. (C. in C. W.A., 1813A/31 to REPULSE.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy. Enemy aircraft bombing convoy WHEEL, position ? 50° 49' N., 4° 43' W. (KRAKOWIAK, 2315/31).

Mining.

Northern Ports. Ports of Tyne, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Blyth to remain closed until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0320/31).
My 0320/31. Sweeping completed at Tyne and Blyth and ports open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/31)
Port of Sunderland now open.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland, 1050/31).

Operations Q.L.1 P.W.18. (1) My 1446A/19. Carry out operation Q.L. (1) tonight. Covering force 4 M.G.B.'s from BEEHIVE. (2) Should weather prove unsuitable operation is to be broken off in time for M.L.'s to return to Aldeburgh Buoy by Daylight. (3) M.G.Bs. should be prepared to shift patrol if E-boats are reported elsewhere. (C. in C. Nore,0940A/31 to BEEHIVE).
Weather permitting intend carrying out operations Q.L. (1) and P.W. (18) tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 1432A/31).
Departure M.G.B.'s 64, 63, 58, 61 at 1924. M.T.B.'s 18, 100, 44, 45, 47. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1930A/31).

Thames Estuary. VERNAL (LL Drifter) damaged. Eleven S.A. Mines detonated on 30/8 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1211/31).
8 magnetic mines detonated on 30/8 as follows. Details. Slight damage in engine room of VERNAL due to detonation of mine No.7.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1227/31).

Off B.5. Following received from D.21 begins. At 0730A/31 two Green Mines exploded in 48° B.5. 2 miles. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1709A/31).

Cardigan Bay. 3 mines have been sunk at 1600, 1630, and 1937/30 respectively by M.L.'s 255 and 236 in follg. posns. Mines were spherical, compact, and believed British. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1716/31).

Nab. During clearance of QZX 84 today magnetic mine detonated in 071° 2.5 miles from Nab.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1747A/31).

Port in QZS 211. Port included in QZS 211 will open 0700 first.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1806A/31 to WALKER).

Falmouth. At 0850/31 S.A. Trawler detonated one Acoustic Mine and at 1335/31 one Magnetic Mine. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2200/31).

/Portland.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.144. Capt. W.E.B. Magee, R.N. as Commodore, has arrived complete. 40 British, 16 Allied, 3 neutral ships. Cargoes. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

W.S.11. Sailed TOTLAND, SENNEN and WINCHELSEA, for W.S.11 (Capt. D. Londonderry. 0815/31 to C. in C. W.A.) S/M report in vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 1550A/31) See U-Boat Campaign.

S.L.83 Congratulations on again bringing to safety to U.K. all ships of convoy S.L.83. (C. in C. W.A. 1001A/31 to Cdre. Rees.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. Your 12220/29. S.S. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL is now expected to arrive Halifax about 12/9. If ship is unable to overtake W.S.11 at Capetown C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.I. are requested to make the best arrangements for escort and onward passage to Suez. (D.O.D. (F) 1555/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

East Coast. For N.C.S.O.'s Ships bound for intermediate ports in East Coast Convoys are to bewarned not to leave the convoy until arrival at departure buoy for their port. Shearing off to westward in anticipation is a dangerous practice. (D.T.D. 1754A/31 to C. in C. Nore., C. in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Portland Clearance Sweep. — Anticipate 13th M/S F. will complete clearance of QZY 247 and 250 by 1500/1. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 2243A/31).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. La Pallice. — At 1850/30. Photographic R/C shows both Battle Cruisers and PRINZ EUGEN are in usual dry docks. (D.D.I.C. 0001A/31).

R/C Brest and La Pallice. — P.R.U. St. Eval 1500/31.

Kiel. — P.R.U. Kiel at 09352/31 shows TIRPITZ in Wik Commerical Harbour. ADMIRAL SCHEER in Strander Bucht. Nos 5 and 6 Docks are occupied but shadow prevents definite identification of HIPPER and LUTZOW. (D.D.I.C., 1735A/31).

Casualties and Defects.

IRIS (Train Ferry). grounded. — IRIS reports groundedLiath Eilean and beached Otter Spit, Loch Fyne. Making water in numbers 2 and 3 holds. Assistance is not at present required. (V.A.C.T.C., 0758A/31).
IRIS beached in 56° N., 5° 20' W. No immediate danger. Nos. 2 and 3 holds full of water. Appears badly holed and unlikely can be moved until temporary repairs carried out. Local diver being sought. (V.A.C.T.C., 1303A/31).

FURIOUS. — My 1249A. Condenseritis starboard inner engine. Cannot trail whole way Gibraltar owing to loss feed water due to leaky valves and discharge to bilge. Leak apparantly under test but cannot be identified due to overheating of condenser. (FURIOUS, 1317A/31).

S.T MARY'S. — A.M. 2343A/29. Can be taken in hand for damage repairs and essential defects only by Manchester Dry Dock Company. (D.O.D. (H), 1820A/31 to R.A.M).

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic

**French Convoys.** Passing Gibraltar 29/8 and 30/8. (D.O.R., 31/8)

**Enemy Ships.** For convenience in coding number the ships mentioned in my 2210A/29, 1 to 7.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0938A/31 to S/M O.24) W.D. Note:- Ships were (1) SULLBERG, (2) HANS SCHMIDT, (3) ATLAS, (4) E.H.FISSER, (5) OTTO LEONHARDT, (6) MAURO CROCE, (7) SPEZIA.

**Dispositions.** Situation report No.2. at 2000A/31. All positions N. and W.
(1) CLYDE on patrol in Area bounded by latitudes 040° and 034° longitudes 023° and 031° avoiding convoy routes.
(2) NESTOR 35.50 12.10, 280° 17, to Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1310A/31 to N.A. Stn.)
Situation report No.3 at 2000A/31. All positions N. and W. (i) CAVINA patrol H.Z. 1. (ii) MARON on patrol H.X. 3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1316A/31 to N.A. Station.)
Situation 2000A/31. STELLA CARINA 034° 20' 008° 40' through 035° 50' 006° 45' 9 knots to Gibraltar. (iv) No change in U-Boats.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1808A/31 to SEVERN, CLYDE)

**TAKU** Alter course forthwith to pass N. of Alboran Island thence keeping N. of 036° 10' until 005° W. A/S sweep in progress East of Almina Pt. Adhere to your E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1610A/31 to TAKU)

**ATLAS** My 2210A/29 No.3. (ATLAS) left for Genoa via Barcelona 29th.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1736A/31 to O.24.)

**PROTEUS TRUSTY** Intend PROTEUS and TRUSTY (?pass through) 43° 00' N., 10° 40' W. at 1700A/7 and 0900A/7 respectively proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.
PROTEUS is painted Mediterranean blue. TRUSTY is painted Grey with white letters and numbers on conning tower. (S.3. 1851A/31 to F.O.C.N.A. amended 0846A/3/9.)

**E.H.FISSER (German)** No. 4. left Barcelona 29th for Genoa.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2336A/31 to S/M O.24.)

MOST SECRET

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Saturday

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### South Atlantic

NEWCASTLE
QUEEN OF BERMUDA

NEWCASTLE is to cease to form part of Force F and is to R/V with QUEEN OF BERMUDA and DURBAN CASTLE in 008° 55' S., 017° 45' W. at 1100Z/2 and escort them to Trinidad and onwards. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is routed through 015° 20' S., 005° 10' W. and 002° 20' S., 031° 10' W.
(C. in C. S.A., 0213N/31 to Force F.)

GAZCON
(French)

Reported off Novoredondo 0730 this morning and off Port Ambiom 1100, steaming slowly., (Consul-General, Loanda, 1115/31 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO)
Consul Lobito's 0444 (N.T. in W.R.) is as follows. (Begins) GAZCON sailed 2045/30. Course and speed 315° 9 knots. Please advise if interception successful. (Ends)
(C. in C. S.A., 1327N/31 to ALBATROSS, BULOLO)

Glenn Martin over Gambia.

1404 G.M.T. Single French Glenn Martin aircraft appeared flying East to West. Flew over barracks at Cape St. Mary twice and circled aerodrome at Jeswang 1000 to 3000 ft. was engaged by light military A/A and by warships in harbour climbed to 9,000 feet. Flew off South East. Duration flight 35 minutes.
(Comdr. Gambia Area, 1503/31)

REPULSE
DUNEDIN
RAPIDOL
SHEFFIELD

A.T. 1828A/28 and DUNEDIN's 2239Z/30.
Amend R/V for REPULSE and R.F.A. RAPIDOL to read 29° 50' N., 28° 15' W. at 1000Z/7.
DUNEDIN is to remain with RAPIDOL until REPULSE is met, the delay to SHEFFIELD's return being accepted.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1616A/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM

Admty. 1638/30. Move to I 33 D and patrol neighbourhood of lines between 008° S., 031° 30' W., and 004° 30' S., 028° W. provided your fuelling arrangements will allow. Suggest you consider possibility of Oiler ABBEYDALE proceeding Eustace or Cat. Arrive southern end of line about p.m/2 if possible. (C. in C. S.A., 1845N/31 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Force F.

A.M. 1638/30. Patrol neighbourhood of line extending (?300) miles N.E. and 200 miles S.W. of S. Paul's Rocks. When required fuel from ECHODALE in neighbourhood of position "Zeal" my 2117/30 (C. in C. S.A., 1901N/31 to S.O. Force F.)

O.S. and S.L. Convoys.

Your 2350/29 Concur with C. in C. W.A.'s 1656/2
(C. in C., S.A. 2012N/31 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy. — Convoy of 7 Merchant ships (?4) (?Destroyers) 095° Tripoli (Libya) 35, course 95° at 23190/31. (S.1., 01390/31 to TALISMAN).

TALISMAN. — You were sighted and reported at 18470/30. (Capt. S.1., 01450/31 to TALISMAN).

TRIUMPH. URGE. — If in Q.B.B. 65 today 31st attempt to communicate by S.S.T. with URGE who is in that area and due Malta P.M./1. (S.O.S. Malta, 0942B/31 to TRIUMPH).

Port Said Raid. — My Q.856, 30/8, para. 1, no damage or casualties Port Said in raid night 29/30. Western Desert, Night 29/30, 4 Blenheims despatched

Benghazi bombed. — to attack shipping in Benghazi Harbour. 1 Blenheim bombed town as diversion while remaining 3 flew through harbour defences at 50 feet and bombed vessel at Juliana Mole. Bombs fell near vessel.

Bardia bombed. — F.A.A. Albacores bombed stores dumps North of Bardia, starting several fires. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1018/31 to Air. Min.)

Italian Cruiser Damaged. — Lieut. Winter R.N. who returned to Beyrout in French Convoy reports having seen an Italian Cruiser of POLA Class down by stern and listing to starboard being beached at Messina at 0900 on 26/8. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 10200/31 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

REGENT. — Proceed through 035° 51', 015° 15' and 036° 00' 014° 53' to arrive Grand Harbour at 0700B/3. UNBEATEN will approach 1st position from Northward to arrive Malta next day. (S.O. (S) Malta, 1105B/31 to REGENT).

Suez Raid 30/8. — My 12550/30 one enemy A/C crashed in flames at 2310 near Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 11110/31 to Admty. etc.)

UNBEATEN. REGENT. — Vichy convoy passes South through Messina at 1000/2. Leave patrol P.M. by reverse of outward route to arrive at Malta 0700/4. REGENT approaches 035° 51' 015° 15' from S.E. to arrive at Malta 0700/3. (S.O.S. Malta, 1113B/31 to UNBEATEN).

/Vichy.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Vichy Convoys.** Route to Toulon and Marseilles. (C. in C. Med., 1137C/31 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

**AGHIOS. PANTELEIMON.** N.O.I.C. Alexandria reports AGHIOS PANTLEIMON left Alexandria 28/5 and lost touch with escort on 30/5. She is presumed lost 30/5 (ends). (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1231/31 to D. of S.T.)

**M.V's attacked.** Ref. 1163, 26/8. Now known that ship attacked and claimed sunk by Blenheims was already badly damaged and abandoned (ARTA or TRTA). Night 30/31. 5 Swordfish anti shipping search Lampedusa area one hit with torpedo on M.V. approx. 1200 tons causing large explosion. Ship stopped with heavy list, probable second torpedo hit same ship. No opposition. All aircraft returned. 9 Wellingtons 38 Sqdn. attacked Tripoli between 2123 and 0040 hours, Spanish Quay and ships unloading plastered, 3 large fires started. 1 ship alongside Quay hit and set on fire. 3 fires still burning from attack night 29/30. Also 2 M/V inside harbour still smouldering. (H.Q. Malta, 1730/31).

**Tripoli bombed.**

**TALISMAN. THUNDERBOLT.** Return to Alexandria leaving your area P.M./2 routed S. and E. of 032° 45' 020° 00' to carry out daylight reconnaissance of (? DERNA). Thence proceed through 033° 10' 025° 30' to enter sanctuary 0600C/7. THUNDERBOLT steering 270° to 033° 40' 019° 30' then west of 019° 30' due area C, 3/9. (S.1., 1920/31 to TALISMAN).

**Black Sea situation.** Following is personal opinion of N.L.O., Black Sea. Fleet morale high owing chiefly to lack of any opposition and local air superiority, but senior officers apprehensive of future. Thought that Military were rather bewildered at speed of enemy and that there was apparently no reserve of men and an acute shortage of Soviet tanks, in this area. Odessa, at present besieged, mainly by Roumanian troops, is short of water and considered unlikely to hold out much longer if Germans assist. Sevastopol calm, no shortage of food, population unaware of situation but surprised at non-invincibility of Red Army. Air raids expected shortly. (Adm. Miles, 1935/31 to Admty.)

/Reply.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

Reply to F.W. A/C attack.

Your 12260/30. Reinforcement of long range fighters is under consideration. Lessons learnt from dealing with Focke Wulf in Atlantic show that this menace can be met if all merchant ships realise paramount importance of meeting attack with effective fire. This necessitates gunb crew being constantly on the alert and holding their fire until A/C reach point blank range. Single ships are more liable to attack than those in Convoy. Attacks are usually delivered from very low altitudes, A/C approaching from ahead. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1953A/31 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Convoy.

4 destroyers and 7 merchant ships in 033° 28' N. 013° 22' E. at 2219B/31 course 85°. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2310B/31 to TALISMAN).
My 2310/31. Amend position and course to read 032° 52' N. 013° 52' E. 095°.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2355B/31 to TALISMAN).

### East Indies.

Persian Vessels.

Your 2344/29, does this also apply to capture of Persian Warships and Floating Dock?
(C. in C. E.I., 0614Z/31 to Admty.)

CASCADE, wrecked 22/8.

N.O.I.C. Calcutta in a Signal dated 29/8 reported that U.S.A. Ship CASCADE had fire in cargo, became unsalvable and dangerous to navigation and was sunk by gunfire on 22/8. All C.Bs. burned in Ship. Further information is being sought and if important will be passed on. (C. in C. E.I. 0618Z/31 to Admty.)

BRITANNIC. STRATHALLAN.

My 1150/21. Understand that BRITANNIC and STRATHALLAN will load at Bombay for U.K. Intend embarking following, Navy 40, Army 90, Mercantile Marine Seamen 248, Norwegian Volunteers 36. May these be embarked in one of the ships or should they divide between the 2?
(S.S.T.O. India 0621Z/31 to Admty.)

/REVENGE.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies-Contd.

REVENGE W.S.10X. CERES. — A.M. 1548/21. Intend REVENGE to escort W.S.10X. from Capetown to vicinity of Mombasa where CERES will provide relief escort to Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 1150Z/31 to Admty.)

Enemy Ships ex-Iran. — Your 2344/29. WILDENFELS, MARIENFELS, STURMFELS, CABOTO, BARBARA and BRONTE should be clear of territorial waters by about 4/9. First 3 ships under own power, last 3 in tow of SHOREHAM, SNAPDRAGON and KANIMBLA respectively. Ex Italian HILDA is clear and is being towed towards towards Karachi by YARRA. Doubtful local resourses will be successful in salving HOHENFELS. Definite information should be available by 3/9. (C. in C. E.I., 1500Z/31 to Admty.)

### China.

Miri precautions. — Your 1630/29 (N.T. in W.D) Plugging Miri Well not considered necessary as average capacity less than one tone per day. 2. Intend to immobilise inclined heavy plant such as boilers that cannot readily be removed. (C. in C. China 0439/31 to Admty.)

War Plans. — My 0411/26. CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, JAVA, proposals. (C. in C. China, 0441Z/31 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

AUSTRALIND. British, 5020 tons, left Adelaide 8/7 for Balboa, overdue there since 22/8. Thought possible she may have been the unknown ship which made a raider distress signal on 19/8 in 05.50 S., 91.20 W. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

LAFONIA. Has not arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 00292/31 to S.O.I. Freetown).

RODNEY, search for raider. RODNEY in company Com. Task Force 2 exclusive of 20% reserve estimate that Com Task Group 2.6 can operate 11 days at 15 knots or 9½ at 17 knots, present speed 17 knots, have altered course and search axis to 16 zero to cover shipping routes X, intend to search tomorrow S.E. along commerce lanes. (Spenavo, 0045/31 to Admty. for D.C).

U.S. Task Forces, Movements. Both of following movements to commence on 30/8 at 2400Z+4. Unless further contacts are reported today it is my intention to direct Task Group2.6 resume scheduled patrols with such modifications as fuel availability may require and Task Group 2.5 proceed to Hampton Roads to arrive afternoon of 3/9 Ottawa deliver to C.N.S. (Spenavo, from Opnav 0050/31 to Admty. for D.C.)
Your 2242Q/30. At 0230Z/31, P.C.S. of Task Force 2.6, 014° 40' N. 049° 45' W. 210° 23 knots, apparently proceeding towards Dutch Guiana in accordance with C. in C. Lant's 0207/31 (N.T. in W.R) Passed to Spenavo. (B.A.D. 0351R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I).
At 0600Q/31 P.C. and S. of Task Force 2.5, 019° 47' N. 049° 50' W., 161° 17 knots. Passed to Spenavo. (B.A.D. 0939R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I).
B.A.D. Washington 0341R/31 (?0351R/31).
Conform movements Task Force 2.6 as much as possible. If no further report received by dusk 31/8 return to Bermuda. ( C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/31 to RODNEY).
Task group 2.6 proceed towards Dutch Guiana. Coordinate operations with Com Task Force 3 bound for same area from vicinity of Martinique (A.L.U.S.N.A., 1012/31 to D.C., Operations).
Estimated situation of Task Forces 2 and 3 at 0001/31.
1. Task Force 2.6 16° N. 49° W. course 215° 17 knots, RODNEY in company.
2. Task Force 2.7., 26° N. 50° W. course 115° 15 knots.
3. Task Force 2.5 21° N. 61° W. course 161° 17 knots.
4. Task Force 3, MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON 11° N. 60° W. course 120° 17 knots, remainder 14° N. 60° W. course 140° 17 knots. (D.O.D. F. 1406A/31 to C. in C.A.W.I. C. in C. S.A. etc amended 2328A/31).

/Following.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

**U.S. Task Forces, Movements -Contd.**

Following are intended movements of U.S. Task Force 3. 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers will arrive 100 miles 310° Paramaribo light at 0600 zone +4, 1/9, course 130° speed 17 knots. Early forenoon 1/9 U.S. cruiser MEMPHIS and U.S. destroyer SOMERS must return to Trinidad to refuel. If no longer required U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE and U.S. destroyer WARRINGTON will continue regular patrol Recife Cape Verde Is., and reverse. (B.A.D. 1945R/31 to C. in C. A.W.I. amended 1527R/1 and 2259R/2).
Task Group 2.5 in 19.47 N. 59.50 W. at 0600 Z+4/31 speed 17 knots, course 161° true, 1600/31. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 2005/31 to Admty. for D.C).
U.S. Authorities inform me Task Force 2.5 is returning to Hampton Roads arriving 5/9.
Task Force 2.6 is resuming prescribed patrol modified to conform with endurance remaining (C. in C. A.W.I., 23020/31 to Admty.)
Following received via War Dept. from Army Observer Paramaribo, dated 0930/30.
"British Naval Authorities state that German Cruiser in Guiana waters with possible intention of attacking Bauxite Mines in Surinam. Govr. of Surinam has requested Govt. of Trinidad to send air aid". This information not confirmed. War. Dept. has directed Caribbean Defense Commander to support Navy necessary operations that area. Sent to C. in C. Lant for action, Comdr. Carib. Navcoast front, Com Task Force 2, Com Task Force 3, Com. Task Group 2.6, Com. Task Group 2.7 for information. Opnav. (A.L.U.S.N.A. No T.O.O./31 to D.C.)

**Martinique Intelligence.**

Following received - Spenavo to Admiralty (repeats Alusna 1630/30). (D.D.I.C. 0133A/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

**ASCANIA.**

Leave Bermuda on completion of practice P.M./31 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax, so as to arrive A.M. on 3/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 09320/31 to ASCANIA).

**TRUANT.**

Cancel my 1810R/30. TRUANT will adhere to original programme given in my 1748R/26. C.C.N.F. pass to FORTH. (B.A.R.M. 0950R/31 to Admty. etc.)

/BURNHAM.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.-Contd.

BURNHAM. My 1803Z/30. In view of Admty. 1211A/30 BURNHAM will arrive Boston 16/9 in place of RIPLEY unless earlier acceptance can be arranged. (C.C.N.F., 1209Z/31 to B.A.R.M).

FORT DE FRANCE. (Fr.) St. Thomas departure 30/8 Point a Pierre 1/9. Bunkered St. Thomas. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1508R/31 to Admty. etc.)

LIVERPOOL Your 1654R/27. Ratings ex ORION are to be used to complete LIVERPOOL to full complement. Present intention is for LIVERPOOL to return to U.K. after refit to recommission. (D.P.S., 1530A/31 to B.A.R.M).

SHEHERAZADE. Your 1423/30. French tanker SHEHERAZADE is returning to U. S.A. according to terms of agreement and is to be treated as if holding ship navicert. Port of destination not known but presumably Gulf port possibly calling first at Martinique.
Actual departure from Casablanca not reported. (D.E.W.D. 1653A/31 to C. in C. A. .I.)

MONTCLARE. RESOLUTION. Intend sailing MONTCLARE for Bermuda P.M./2 with ground crew and A/C stores for RESOLUTION and for gunnery practices. Arrangements are being made for A/C to be flown as landplane to Philadelphia on 4/9. (R.A.3., 1743P/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ANGELUS intercepted. PRESCOTT has returned from Patrol of Grand Banks area having boarded French auxiliary fishing schooner ANGELUS. She is being sent into Sydney with prize crew. (C.C.N.F. 1901Z/31 to C, in C. A.W.I.)

CHESTERFIELD. Became entangled in A/T baffle P.M./24 under circumstances in which C.O. is absolved of all blame. Examination in drydock shows no damage. (C.C.N.F., 1908Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Surinam.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Surinam L.V. | Following received from Opnav. Informed by State Dept. that Lightship stationed outside the Surinam River has been temporarily withdrawn because of danger of attacks. This has been sent to C. in C., Lant for action. (Spenavo 2008/31 to Admty. for D.C). |
| EMPRESS OF JAPAN. | My 1423Z/28. Now estimated EMPRESS OF JAPAN will be ready to sail 27/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2124Z/31 to D. of S.T.) |
| S.E. Pacific Force. | Admty. inform me C. in C., U.S. Pacific Fleet is sending 2 cruisers to Balboa to constitute South East Pacific Force. Request earliest information as to when these cruisers are expected to arrive. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2151Q/31 to B.A.D.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OTAIO (torpedoed 28/8). Has now sunk. (D.S. 724, 31/8).

O.S.4. (attacked 27/8) Weather permitting will carry out your 2357A/30 instructions. Now heavy mist and refloating in the event of lifting at daylight. Have not secret call sign nor recognition signal for after midnight tonight. (ZWARTE ZEE, 0454A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Your 0315A/31. (N.T. in W.D).
GLEANER is S.O. Understand from BELMONT and AYRSHIRE that position of wreck reported by Wellington A/C has been thoroughly searched by them. BELMONT considers derelict has sunk. A/C report 2 wrecks in same position indicating to us that ship had broken in two at No. 3 Hold and not being a tanker would sink quickly. Suggest you turn north at 1000 and sweep to -parallel of 055° N., assume AYRSHIRE who is south of us will cover small area unswept unswept from southern position northwards. My P.C. and S., expect tug at 0400, 054° 50' N. 010° 06' W. 053° 10. In absence of definite instructions or accurate position of derelict suggest that on completion of sweep P.M. today we return to Clyde as there will be no time to spare in preparing next convoy (satisfactorily?). We have no major defects. (ST. LOMAN, 0501A/31 to NORWICH CITY.)
N.O.I.C. Greenock's 2357/30. Return to Clyde on completion unless it is necessary to call at Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1628A/31 to ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY.)
E.T.A. 0930/1. A.F.O. 2901/41.
(A) WALKER, VANOC, VOLUNTEER (B) S.S. (G.C.W.T.) OTAIO (D) 3 (E) 22 (F) 31 (H) 1 (N) 57 (P) 2 of (F) (Q) 1 of (E) 2 of (F).
(WALKER, 2010A/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

29/8. Cape Verde Authorities report a U-boat off Praia St. Jago Island 29/8. (D.D.I.C. 0015A/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. Large numbers are operating between 53° and 62° and 15° - 23°. (D.D.I.C. 1418A/31).

/1500.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.8.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1500. Following has been read from Rosyth. Am over enemy S/M in position TVUH (Remainder wrong). (11 Sqdn., 1500/31 to 18R. Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 59.50 N., 9.20 W. (71 Sqdn., 1500/31 to 15 Group H.Q.)
(C. in C. W.A., 1540A/31 to LONDON).
My 1500. Have lost touch with Enemy S/M. Last seen in position (as 1500) S/M was sighted on surface and observed to dive. When first sighted was on course of 140° (71 Sqdn., 1515/31 to 18 Group H.Q.)

2355. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 60° 20' N. 9° 52' W., probably a S/M based on a fix obtained with half hour of 2000. (J/612, 2355/31 to 18 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. 1510. The following has been read from Liverpool W/T.
Am over enemy S/M in 55.08 N., 10.05 W. (R. Sqdn., 1510/31 to 15 R Group).
W.D. Note Whitley A/C., R/502., see H.Q. 15 Group 0025/1.
Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface when first sighted on Course 140° at 1503.
Have attacked Enemy Submarine with bombs dive estimate 1 hit. (61 Sqdn., 1520/31 to 15 Group).
Detach WESTCOTT and ST. ALBANS to hunt U-Boat attacked by A/C 055° 08' N. 010° 05' W. at 1500/31, aircraft co-operating.
(C. in C. W.A., 1530A/31 to WANDERER).
My 1530/31 to WANDERER. U/Boat was sighted on surface and dived. A/C estimates one hit.
(C. in C. W.A., 1535A/31 to WESTCOTT, ST. ALBANS).
S/M sighted and attacked by A/C in 055° 08' N. 010° 05' W. estimate one hit. (C. in C. W.A. 1550A/31 to Escort of W.S.11, REPULSE).
U-Boat sighted and attacked by aircraft (as 1550A/31). Pass as far due South of this position as conditions permit thence to North Channel.
(C. in C. W.A., 1601A/31 to Escort of T.C.12B.)
Enemy previously reported was on surface.
When first sighted was on course 245° speed 6 knots. (R Sqdn., 1657/31 to 15 Group H.Q.)
My 1530A/31. U/Boat when first sighted was on course 245° speed 6 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1718A /31 to WESTCOTT, ST. ALBANS).
Your 1832A/31. (N.T. in W.D) Unless in contact abandon search in time to join O.G. 73 at economical speed by 1159/1. (C. in C. W.A. 2019A/31 to WESTCOTT).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

3 M.T.B's patrolled off Ostend last night.
No shipping was sighted.

British Air Operations.

Six Wellingtons bombed the docks at Boulogne last night. Small scale attacks were made on docks at Ostend and Dunkirk.

Two Flakships which with two destroyers were escorting a merchant vessel off Barfleur were set on fire this evening.

6 A/C of C.C. and 8 of B.C. to lay mines last night at Karmsund and from Frisian Is. to Elbe.

Mining.

Operation Q.L.1. — Mines were laid last night off Hook of Holland.

Sunderland was closed at 0315, Tyne at 2240 and Blyth at 2315.

Liverpool is to be closed at night, commencing today.

Thames Estuary. — M/S Trawlers ETRUSCAN and WAR WING were slightly damaged this morning by the explosion of S.A. mines off Harwich.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Mediterranean.

**Air attack on Cotrone.** This morning 7 Blenheims attacked shipping and other targets at Cotrone. A merchant ship in harbour was hit and set on fire.

**Operations by TETRARCH.** TETRARCH reports a possible hit on a merchant ship approaching Benghazi on 19/8. She shadowed an escorted convoy of 5 large schooners and a steamship proceeding close in shore from Tripoli to Benghazi and sunk one schooner on the morning of 23/8 and one on the following morning.

**Libya and Western Desert.** There was a heavy air attack on Tobruk today. No serious damage was caused.
7 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli from 2000 to 2300 today.
Blenheims last night attacked a tanker and petrol storage barges at Benghazi. Results are not known.

**Egypt and Suez Canal Area.** Port Said and Alexandria were attacked by aircraft last night. Some naval casualties were caused at Alexandria.

**Flag of C. in C.** The Flag of C. in C. Med. has been transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Flag of V.A.1.B.S. to BARHAM.

**Black Sea.** It is reported that the Russians damaged by air attack on 23/8 the Rumanian monitor ARDEAL. The Soviet minesweepers BAIKAL and OCHAKOVICANAL were sunk when evacuating troops from Kherson Ochakovo. The Soviet transport Briyansk was sunk by aircraft at Odessa.

### America and West Indies.

**Raider search.** The U.S. forces abandoned at 1800Q today the search for the enemy cruiser sighted on 28/8.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.7.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**SPRINGBANK as Fighter Catapult Escort for E.C. and W.N. Convoys.**

Your 0036. No objection. (A.C.O.S. 1052B/1 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 0036B/1. Concur. (C. in C. Rosyth 1509/1 to C. in C. W.A).

**A/P Trawlers from Shetlands.**

Your 1830B/30. C. in C. Rosyth's 1559/28/6 will be complied with. These trawlers are the remains of a Flotilla of 12 which were sent to me to act as an anti invasion warning patrol off Shetlands last August. I hope it will be clearly understood that I have now no surface craft for this duty. For the next two months of short nights and summer weather I consider we can rely on warning given by aircraft, but by September I consider it will be essential to re institute a surface warning patrol. The minimum requirement for this patrol is 6 trawlers with good A/A armament which will enable them to maintain 4 trawlers at sea 30 miles from the Coast. (A.C.O.S. 1223/1 to Adty.).

**Recognition Signals.**

Your 1512/15 May, 151A/1/6 and 152A/1/6. Request you will promulgate generally what recognition signals are to be used in Icelandic waters where U.S. Ships may be met observing Iceland (c) is East of 026° W. (C. in C. H.F. 1632B/1 to Adty.).

**Catapult Ships with Convoys.**

My 1025B/21. Owing to indications of increasing Focke Wulf activity from France, ARAGUANI and MAPLIN are to be operated with OB/OG/HG/SL Convoys on Southern routes until further orders. (C. in C.W.A. 1650B/1).

**Broads Flotilla.**

Broads Flotilla handed over to Army today at 1200. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1900/1).

**Special Information Centre.**

By direction of the Prime Minister a special secret information centre has been established in London, where files of current defence matters will be maintained.
The object of the centre is to enable C's in C. to visit it from time to time and put themselves au fait with the current situation. (1st S.L. 2300B/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of V.A.2. — Pink List dated 26th August. Flag of V.A.C. 2nd B.S. and 2nd in command Home Fleet was transferred to PRINCE OF WALES 18th August. (V.A.2 0943A/1.)

S/M's in Northern Waters. — Suggest that Admiralty should include the movements of any Russian or British submarines based in Northern Waters, which may be operating in an area where contact with our own forces is possible, in the daily submarine position signal or alternatively should inform any Flag Officers concerned in a separate daily message. (F.O.S. 1636A/1 to Adty.)
Your 1636A/1. This information will be passed in a separate message to Flag Officers concerned. (D.O.D.H. 1913A/1 to F.O.S.)

M.T.B.54. — Norwegian crew of M.T.B.56 now repairing at Northam is to proceed to Dover to take over M.T.B. 54. British crew of latter is to stand by M.T.B. 56 until she has completed repairs. M.T.B.54 is to be at 48 hours notice for special service from 4/9. This exchange of crews is to be regarded as temporary until M.T.B.56 has completed repairs about 23/9. C. in C. R.N.N. concurs. (D.D.O.D. C. 2001A/1.)

Iceland. N.C.S.O. and D.E.M.S. Staffs. — Due to U.S.A. Tanker shuttle service and requirements for North Russia etc., amount of shipping calling at Iceland is likely to increase. Intend therefore to augment your N.C.S.O. staff. Understand there is some difficulty in passing route instructions to ships in Hvalfiord unless they call at Reykjavik. Propose that a branch N.C.S.O's Office be established at Hvalfiord. It is also under consideration, to appoint a small D.E.M.S. staff in addition to the Gunners Mate already allocated. Request your remarks, and earliest date accommodation can be made available. (A.C.N.S.T. 2208A/1 to A.C.I.C.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Baltic. — (Destruction of Naval Construction) Your 1511/30. Reply. (Ad.Miles 0959C/1 to Adty.) See Lion Copy.

/White Sea .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia - contd.

White Sea. After fuelling and resting, and when A/A protection of Convoy is reasonably assured, escort may be used in agreement with Russian S.N.O. to operate off entrance to White Sea against U-Boats and Ships or (? bases). (V.A.2.1034A/1 to ELECTRA). See Operations Volume.

Employment of British Naval Forces. Admiralty's 1905A/31. C. in C. Northern Fleet greatly appreciates offer of use of destroyers and minesweepers, and requests destroyers may be employed to escort number of M/V's waiting at Archangel to Nova Zembla as no other escort available. Minesweepers to be employed sweeping entrance to White Sea vicinity Gorodetski. Admiral Surfinin (? noted) and requested to arrange details with S.N.O. British Forces at Archangel. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., ELECTRA, and V.A.2. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1123C/1 to Ad. Miles.)

Movements.

TRUSTY. My 1849A/31. Delete all reference to TRUSTY. (S.S. 0106A/1 to authorities concerned in Home Commands.)
My 1851A/31. Delete all reference to TRUSTY. (S.S. 0108A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FURIOUS, LIVELY, LEGION. Sailed FURIOUS escorted by LIVELY. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0548/1.)
Following is a repetition of my 0946A/1.begins. Request onward route for FURIOUS from position X be repeated LEGION (ends). (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1046/1.)
Expect to leave Londonderry at 1900A/1 and reach 047° 45' N. 025° 10' W. at 1930A/3 with 65% oil fuel remaining. (LEGION 1730A/1 to REPULSE, FURIOUS, Capt. D.4.)

P.35. Sailed my 0956A/30/8. Code word LABEL. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 0825A/1.)

KING GEORGE V. Request you provide 3 destroyers to screen KING GEORGE V. passing Oxcars Gate at 0900/5. (V.A.2. 1010A/1 to R.A.D.)

/DUKE OF YORK .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

DUKE OF YORK. Admiralty 1855A/11/8 para.2. I should be grateful if two destroyers from 17th Division could carry out this duty, as there are no worked-up H.F. destroyers available. (V.A.2. 1036A/1 to R.A.M.)
Your 1036. Regret no destroyer of 17th Division will be available before about 13/9. (R.A.M. 1229A/1 to V.A.2.)
Admiralty 1857A/11. S.O. Destroyers is requested to provide 3 Destroyers as A/S screen to arrive Clyde by p.m./8.
2. PENELOPE is to provide surface and A/A escort and is to arrive Clyde p.m./8. (V.A.2. 1535A/1.)
Admiralty 1855A/11/8. Request you will provide two destroyers. (V.A.2. 1549A/1 to R.A.D.)

CATHAY, CANTON. For Freetown CATHAY and CANTON leave Clyde not before 18/9. (S.O.W.P. 1146A/1 to Adty.)

H.33. H.33 leaves Sheerness at 1500A/1 routed as follows to R/V 0630A/5 in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles. (Capt.S.7. 1414A/1.)
SEAWOLF routed as follows to arrive Portsmouth 0600A/5. No other S/M movement affects you. (Capt.S.7. 1501A/1 to H.33.)
Sheerness departure H.33 for Rothesay at 1515A/1, escorted by GARTH as far as Dungeness. E.T.A. Clyde 1400A/7. (C. in C. Nore 1632A/1.)

BROADWAY, POLYANTHUS, TRAIL. Proceed into Iceland when KEPPELS Group have joined. (C. in C. W.A. 1709A/1 to BROADWAY, etc.)

PARTHIAN. Intend to sail PARTHIAN from Dartmouth for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, passing through 180° Start Pt. 15 miles at 1700A/2 thence routed as follows.
2. PARTHIAN will dive by day when to Eastwards 015° W, thence on surface at C.O's discretion. (Capt. S.5. 1853A/1 and 2242A/1.)

EURYALUS. A.S. Rosyth's 1009/29. On completion of practices tomorrow proceed to Rosyth. You will be required to sail from Rosyth to arrive at Scapa a.m./11th. (V.A.2. 2002A/ to EURYALUS.)
V.A.2's 2002A/1. You should not arrive May Island before 0900/5 so that morning sweep can be completed. (C. in C. Rosyth 2354/1 to EURYALUS.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Gauntlet". Force L. unable to make Seidisfjord due to thick fog. Propose proceeding R. (SHROPSHIRE 0520A/1 to V.A.2.) Your 0520A/1. Concur. (V.A.2. 0758A/1. to SHROPSHIRE.) My position 065° 53' N. 013° 58' W. visibility maximum. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1045A. (PUNJABI 0915A/1 to SHROPSHIRE.) Intend to sail Seidisfjord at 1300A/1 and proceed position R. at 18 knots to R/V with Force L. (PUNJABI 1128A/1 to SHROPSHIRE.)

Operation "Dervish". Employment of Escort and sailing date. (V.A.2.1034A/1 to ELECTRA.) See Operations Volume.

Your 1903A/31. It was understood from your 1453A/24 that close escort was not proceeding to Archangel. Para.4. No but by Lloyds register her draught appeared to be too great to proceed up river. I learn now that she has in fact been berthed up harbour. Para.6. Arrangements have been made and are much appreciated by the Soviet authorities. (Ad. Miles 2028C/1 to Adty.)

Ostend. M.T.B. Patrol Report. Following from BEEHIVE. Your 1132A/31. No shipping sighted. Lights seen as follows. (C. in C. Nore 1232A/1.)

Off Hardanger. Proceed now to R/C area near 59° 27' N. 04° 55' E. Attention is called to my 1246A/28. Do not disclose your presence by attacking unimportant targets or southbound merchant ships. (F.O.S.1701A/1 to MINERVE.)

Operation "Acid Drop". On Night 30/31 August. Preliminary Report. (D.C.O.1717A/1) See Operations Volume.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. FATE 5 in operation until 1900/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 0912/1.)
My 0912/1. Aircraft recalled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/1.)
P.R.U. Stavanger-Kristiansand and Hornli in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1618/1.)

/A/S Sweep .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

A/S Sweep requested. LV/OPS3/1/9. Concentration of U-boats suspected in following area GFYE 0000, TVYE 0000, TVEU 0000, GRJU 0000. Request you sweep in area today with as many A/C as possible. (15 Group 1100/1 to R.A.F. Iceland.)

Bombing Operations. On 31/8 Bremen and shipyards at Le Trait were bombed; and during Night 31 Aug/1 Sept. the docks at Boulogne and Ostend were attacked. (H.Q.B.C.1527/1.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy. One A/C height 2000 feet, my position 54° 22' N. 0° 40' W. (WESTMINSTER 1130/1)
My 1130. Apparently Junkers 88 flew north up convoy, driven off to the north eastward by gunfire without attack. (WESTMINSTER 1142/1.)

Myggenaes Beacon (bombed 24/8.) Your 1016A/28. Regular operation of Myggenaes Beacon can be dispensed with for the present, but the use of this Beacon on request from H.M. Ships is most desirable. (C. in C. H.F. 1626A/1 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Mining.

Sunderland. Port of Sunderland closed until further notice. (N.C.S.O. Sunderland 0315/1.)

Operation Q.L.1. Carried out as follows. Details. (BEEHIVE 1100A/1.) Completed (C. in C. Nore 1428A/1.)

Operation P.W.18. My 1432A/31/8. P.W.(18) postponed due to engine defects of M.T.B's. Weather permitting intend carrying out P.W.18 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1428A/1.)

Operation S.N.23. Intend to carry out as follows with PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK. Details. (R.A.M.1446A/1.) See Operations Volume.

Portland Minefield. Controlled minefield at Portland completed and in operation. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1503/1.)

/Harwich .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Harwich. ETRUSCAN, WAR WING. (M/S Trawlers) damaged.

2 Mines exploded by S.A. Trawlers at 0911 and 0913 today. Details. ETRUSCAN and WAR WING sustained slight damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1503A/1.)

Nymph Bank Channel Search.

Request you will arrange for 4 R.N.N. Minesweepers at Milford Haven to carry out a single Oropesa search of the Western portion of the Channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield described in Admiralty 1754A/13/8.
2. Sweep should commence west of the Meridian 06° 50' W. and should consist of a single lap covering one mile either side of the centre line, being extended westward as far as daylight permits.
3. Operation should be completed on one convenient day before 5/9.
4. Request you will arrange air escort.
5. It will be necessary to repeat this operation at irregular intervals. Request you will allocate a code word by which this and "repeat" operations can be referred. (A.C.N.S.H. 1654A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

Tyne.

Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2240/1.)

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed. Estimated time of reopening 1200/2. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2315/1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

A.S.V. Contact.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 55° 20' N. (? 9° 22' W.) probably a surface vessel. Below surface nothing seen though contact maintained. (A/C of J. Sqdn. 0955/1 to 15 Group H.Q.)

German Main Units.

Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C. 1946A/1) See Lion Copy.

Casualities and Defects.

BANDIT.

(Tug) Damaged above water-line during attempt to tow B.P.T.25 out of Montrose Harbour. Sailing cancelled until extent of damage is known. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1242/1.)

/CATHAY .....

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - contd.

CATHAY. (A.M.C.) Adty. 1455A/30/8. Essential work including fitting of R.D.F. and fire control table will be completed p.m./15/9. Propose to sail ship 17/9 for Greenock to embark naval stores and boiler tubes ready to proceed to U.S.A. 20/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1309A/1.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy for Russia. Informed that 3 ships carrying war material for Russia leave New York for Halifax as follows: CAPIRA 31/8, NORD KING about 5/9, ANVERS 6 or 7/9. First two under Panamanian flag, last under Panamanian or Belgian. Soviet Authorities are anxious that they should be included in British convoy from Halifax to U.K. and from U.K. to Archangel. Request confirmation that this will be arranged. (Adm. Miles, 1031C/1 to Admty.)

S.L.85. Proceed at best speed and report 4 days in advance your E.T.A. at U.K. R/V. (C. in C. W.A. 1032/1 to Escorts of S.L.85.)

F.S.
F.N.
E.C. Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/1) See Lion Copy.

Orders to alter course. A.M. 1904/30/8. It is not considered desirable to issue any instructions in this connection, but to leave it to the discretion of the man on the spot. Moreover, there can be no guarantee that any drastic alteration of course as proposed will not lead the convoy into a shadowing or homing U-boat with any less probability than if the convoy were to continue along its ordered route. (C. in C. W.A. 1504A/1 to Adty.)

EMPIRE CLIVE's A/C. S.O. Escort pass to Commodore and ships concerned. Owing to failure of R/T in EMPIRE CLIVE, aircraft if catapulted is to be directed by one of the other C.A.M. ships in company as detailed by Commodore. Pilot should be instructed that unless good R/T communication is established he is not to lose sight of convoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1543A/1 to Capt.D. Clyde for BULLDOG, 9th Group R.A.F.)

/Loaded .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Loaded fish carriers from Iceland.

Re leaving convoy and sailing unescorted in the East Coast Channel during dark hours. Undesirable that any vessels other than Warships should proceed independently in the East Coast War Channels in dark hours owing to risk of collision and impossibility of providing protection from Air Attack. (C. in C. Nore 2304A/1 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.class S/Ms. — The withdrawal of CLYDE for A/S training duties at Freetown and return of O.23 to U.K. for refit will reduce 8th S/M F. to three effective operational submarines. In view of commitments of this flotilla including A/S training request consideration may be given to retention at Gibraltar of one of the "T" class submarines mentioned in F.O.(S) 1117A/29. (F.O.C.N.A., 1140A/1 to Admty). The "T" Class submarines mentioned in F.O.(S) 1117/29/8 are at the disposal of C. in C. Med., It is within his discretion to employ them in the area that he considers most necessary. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1948A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HIGHLANDER, PIORUN. — Expected Ponta Delgada 4/9 or 5/9 require approx. 200 tons oil fuel each. (C. in C. W.A., 1153/1 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada) Delete PIORUN (C. in C. W.A., 1926A/2 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

JOAO DE, LISBOA, Portuguese Sloop. — Portuguese Naval Authorities request permission for her proceeding from Macao to Hong Kong for docking 20/9. (B.N.A. Lisbon, 1155/1 to Admty).

Situation report No. 3. at 2000A/1. — (i) CLYDE patrol in area between 040° N., and 034° N., and 023° W., and 031° W.
(ii) MARON patrol H.X.3.
(iii) CAVINA patrol H.Z.1.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1218A/1).

S/M O.23 TAKU. — Arrangements for their sailing to U.K. p.m./3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1606A/1 to Admty).

BRITISH FREEDOM. — BRITISH FREEDOM from Trinidad routed through (position)
(11) E.T.A. BRITISH FREEDOM meridian 25° W., is 2000/3 S. of A. 8 knots endeavour to meet 4/9 and escort to Gib.
(111) If not met by darkness 4th proceed along tanker route eastward at 3 knots. Search westward during daylight 5th. If not met by darkness 5th report the fact and return Gib. reporting E.T.A. on crossing 10 W.
(IV) Acknowledge when 100 miles clear of CARDIUM.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1828A/1 to JONQUIL, SPIREA, amended 0558A/4).

/MIRROR.....

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MIRROR. My 1246. Departure escorted by SCOTTISH. (F.O.C.N.A., 1916A/1).

MAURO CROCE. Number 6 probably sailed 1915/1, for Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A., 2136A/1 to 0.24).

BOREAS. Defect. Speed reduced to 20 knots except in emergencies (ii) Intend sailing BOREAS for U.K. for repairs and as escort for H.G. 72 fuelling at Ponta Delgada on 8/9 subsequently rejoining convoy (iii) Request name of refitting Port. (F.O.C.N.A., 2232A/1 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM Raider Search. Your 1845N/31. Intend BIRMINGHAM to arrive Southern end of line at 1200Z/3 with 52% fuel remaining, thus allowing about 3 days patrol before proceeding to Cat to fuel. (R.A.S.A.D., 0112Z/1, to C. in C. S.A.)

SOLI. Overdue ship. Cancel my 1016/30 SOLI arrived Beira. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1101B/1).

Ex Italian ships. CASTELBIANCO, DANTE, TESEO and VAL DARNO arrived Buenos Aires, 31/8. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1154Z/1)

CHRISTIANHOLM. My 1221/28/8, late arrival at Capetown due to incessant engine trouble. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1245B/1).

HAWKINS. Intend sailing a.m./2 to comply with N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1006/31. E.T.A. Durban a.m./5. (HAWKINS, 1503Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Falklands.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Falklands, Defence, Japanese threat. Conclusions of Service Depts, regarding Japanese action are (1) Any attack would take the form of a raid to destroy local facilities. (2) Type and strength of raid can only be conjecture, but unlikely to exceed 800. (3) Japanese action against islands is unlikely in view of distances involved and because result would not benefit Japan directly. (4) Action would almost certainly provoke adverse reaction on the part of the Americas. (W.O. 1535/1 to M.A. Buenos Aires).

W.S.10 X. Convoy W.S. 10 X sailed 1/9 - STRATHNAVER, STRATHMORE, ORION, PORT JACKSON, PALMA, BRISBANE STAR. Fuel etc. (S.S.T.O. Freetown, 1813N/1 to P.S.T.O.Capetown).

ECHODALE Departure 0800/1 CALENDULA with R.F.A. ECHODALE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2211N/1).

GAZCON. Following received from Consul General Loanda begins: GAZCON sighted off Loanda about one A.M. this morning going very slowly. T.O.O. 1425/1/9 Ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2331N/1 to BULOLO, ALBATROSS).

Mediterranean.

Situation Report 134. Syria. Ships of convoy (?D) have arrived Beirut with 13 British Prisoners of war. (iii) TETRARCH reports (a) Possible hit (?on) (? merchant ship) approaching Benghazi 0715/19. (b) Shadowed escorted convoy 5 large Schooners and one steamer proceeding close in shore Tripoli (Africa) to Benghazi and attacked at 0615/23 and 0702/24 one Schooner being sunk in each attack. (iv) Air raid on Alexandria and Canal area up to midnight 31/1. (C, in C. Med., 0035/1).

URGE. My 1148B/24 not to Netherlands Sub. O.21 URGE has (? returned to) Malta. (Capt. S.1. 1010B/1 to Capt. S.8).

/German.....

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

German Steel. Germany very seriously short of materials for production of special steels. Investigating possibilities of Molybdenum deposit near Inegol Brussa District. Details of scheme. (Wolffson, Istanbul, 1020/1 to D.N.I.)

Air Operations. 1. Dodecanese. Night 30/31 16 Wellingtons dropped 18¼ tons of bombs on Maritza and Calato Aerodromes Rhodes.
2. Egypt. Night 31 August/1 September Port Said and Alexandria attacked by about 8 and 6 aircraft respectively. Further details awaited.
3. Western Desert. Night 30/31 August. 5 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Bardia causing explosions believed ammunition.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1026/1).

Axis Shipping and Supplies. Appreciation by M.E.W., (a) Oil (b) Other commodities. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. Med., 1028A/1) See Lion Copy.

OTUS. Leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' 35° 1' 16° 20' about 2100B/1. Thence direct to arrive off Ras Aamer about sunset /4 next 24 hours being spent between there and Ras Hilal thence as ordered by you. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1216B/1 to Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10 1615B/1 to Capt. (S) 1).

Black Sea. 30/8, enemy crossed Dnieper 3 places near Berinot about 40 miles from Kherson. 5,000 Soviet reinforcements arrived Odessa. Destroyer TASHKEND near missed bomb Odessa arrived Sevastapol 31/8 has hull damaged. Slight night air raids Crimea Novorossisk last two nights. Enemy air attack against sea communications Odessa to Kerch increasing including torpedo bomber. 3 E-boats and floating workshops arrived Ruse 26/8. More E-boats and submarines in sections expected shortly for assembly at Ruse. Cypher situation with Alexandria still obscure.
(L.O. Black Sea, 1351C/1 to Admty).

Flagships. Flag of C. in C. Med., has been transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Flag of V.A.1. B.S. to BARHAM. (C. in C. Med., 1552C/1).

Shipping protection. Proposed arrangements consequent on arrival of F.W. aircraft in Greece. (C. in C. Med., 1333/1). See Operations Volume.

/TORBAY.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean. - Contd.

TORBAY. Has reported Asdic directing gear damaged beyond repair. There is no spare on Station and gear cannot be manufactured locally. In case it is desirable to take necessary gear from TAKU, request she may be held Gibraltar pending decision. (Capt. (S.) 1. 1700C/1 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli bombed, 2 M/VS hit. 9 Wellingtons 38 Sqdn. attacked shipping Tripoli from 1905 to 2300 hours. 1 medium M.V. hit and believed sunk. A second medium M.V. left ablaze from stem to stern. Aerodrome small fires started near station.

Crotone bombed M.V.hit. Day Sept. 1st. 5 Cannon Hurricanes attacked train leaving Tut of Pozzallo at 0445 hours strikes seen on engine and drivers cabin left with volumes of steam coming from it. Guard jumped from train judging by number of strikes on engine it cannot be worth much. 2 lines of coaches Pozzallo station.1135 hours 7 Blenheims attacked shipping, munitions factory, and railway (Crotone) ?. 1 M.V. 3 to 5,000 tons in harbour, 3 hits, last seen well on fire aft.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1900/1).

SEEFALKE, passage of Dardanelles. Your T Y /1/(g) of 11/8/1941 in transit to D.N.I. Referring to Ambassador Angora's telegram 1926 of 9/8 to F.O., please inform Ambassador that I consider we should give full support to Soviet Govt's. note concerning passage through Straits of German Coastguard Vessel SEEFALKE, as suggestion war craft of less than 100 tons such as E-boats should be allowed free passage is a most serious one. It also appears to him counter to whole spirit of Montreaux convention whose provisions are surely designed to prevent passage of ships capable of offensive action.
(2) I concur with your suggestion Turks should be asked to state what would be their attitude to passage of Straits by M.TB's E-boats, etc.
If answer is that this is permissable, it might be worth saying that we therefore presume that we are free to pass M.T.B.'s (?into) Black Sea now.
(3) Telegram 1926, 9/8 was not received by C; in C. Med. This should be investigated.
(C. in C. Med., 1945C/1 to N.A. Angora).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Convoy. 5 merchant ships 5 destroyers expected to pass 037° 36', 016° 04' on constant course 145° at 1800/2 and vicinity 033° 50' 018° 00' on approx. course 245° at about 1800/3. UNBEATEN endeavour to intercept in 1st and OTUS in 2nd position leaving them at sunset if convoy not sighted. (Capt. (S) 10, 2241B/1 to UNBEATEN, OTUS) Note. Capt. (S) 10 0835B/2 ordered his 2241B/1 to be disregarded.

Situation report 135. 1. British white oil tanker EOCENE has arrived Port Said from Istanbul.
2. TRIUMPH reports possible hit on cruiser when one battleship two cruisers and 10 destroyers were attacked at 0700/26 entering straits of Messina from Northward. British officer prisoner in Vichy convoy D confirms seeing Italian Cruiser POLA Class being beached near Messina p.m./26.
UTMOST damaged railway bridge in 039° 50' N., 016° 31' E., at 0220/24.
Western Desert. LESBOS and PASS OF BALMAHA have returned to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 2245C/1 to Admty).

OTUS, THUNDERBOLT. OTUS establish patrol in 34° 42' 17° 50'.
THUNDERBOLT proceed with despatch to establish patrol in 33° 36' 17° 50'. Southbound convoy of 5 ships expected to pass these positions daylight hours 3rd. Speed approx. 13 knots.
(Capt. (S) 1 2360C/1 to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Crew of CORFU. | Your 1901/30 para. 2. Cannot concur for important operational reasons. My 1118/25/8 F.O's cypher refers. (C. in C.E.I., 0756Z/1, to Adty.) |
| W.S.10B. C.M.17. | Your 1651/28, Para. 1. Substitution of RANGITIKI for ARONDA in W.S.10B will slow this convoy down and is most undesirable. Para. 2. Intend to make a fast 16 knot convoy W.S.10B consisting of STIRLING CASTLE, BRITANNIC, WINDSOR CASTLE, STRATHEARN, ARONDA for India. Remaining M.E., ships of W.S.10 plus 4 Group B ships to form C.M.17 to Aden. DIOMEDE to be detached from Gulf of Aden to Basra. Para. 3. N.O.I.C. Simonstown concurs and escorts are being arranged accordingly. Para. 4. Suggest RANGITIKI joins C.M.17 filled to capacity for M.E. (C. in C.E.I., 0818Z/1 to D. of S.T.) |
| SOLI. | Overdue ship. Cancel my 1016/30. SOLI arrived Beira. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1101B/1.) |
| HILDA. (Italian.) | Should HILDA be taken in prize on arrival Karachi? Request sanction engage care and maintenance party as required by Principal Officer Mercantile Marine Dept. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 1034Z/1, to F.O.C.R.I.N.) |
| Operation COUNTENANCE. | Para.1. My 1320/17/8 being passed to A.C.N.B. Operation commenced day 25/8 operations A and B were conducted by S.N.O.P.G. flying his broad pennant in SPEABELLE with following ships: SHOREHAM, LILAVATI, ZENOBIA, IHSAN 6 Eurekas and 3 small craft, carrying a total of about 1320 troops. Operation C Senior Officer Commander U.R.H. James in FALMOUTH with YARRA and three small craft together with 200 troops. (C. in C.E.I., 1146Z/1 to Admty.) |
| Italian Shipping. | Your 1948/22. (Presumably 1848A/27/8 intended re sabotage on Italian ships.) Charges were placed and ship prepared for being (? set) on fire between 14th (? up to and including) 19th August. So far as I am able to establish actual (firing?) was done on arrival of British force. (S.N.O.P.G., 1209Z/1, to Admty.) |

/GIORGIOS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

GIORGIOS AVEROFF. (Greek.)

Leaves Aden shortly as single ship escort to Bombay. Intended she shall subsequently escort Indian Ocean convoy from Bombay. MARIT MAERSK is acting collier for GIORGIOS AVEROFF.
(C. in C.E.I., 1248Z/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Iranian Shipping.

Your 0614Z/31. No, my 1825A/27 still holds good. My 2344A/29 was intended to refer to enemy merchant shipping only.
(A.C.N.S.(F)1330A/1 to C. in C.E.I.)

Local defence craft.

Your 1320Z/27 para. 2. Hope Harbour Defence Patrol Craft for patrolling indicator nets or booms can be improvised from station resources. Should you wish to use 72 ft. M.L's 1098 and 1099 completing at Durban for this service you should report to Adty., as question of their employment outside African waters may have to be taken up with Union Govt.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1543A/1 to C. in C.E.I.)

China.

Your 1902/30/8. (N.T. in W.D.) Are these arrangements being communicated to Dutch.
(C. in C. China 0313Z/1 to Adty.)

Local defence craft.

It is anticipated that you will be able to meet requirement for harbour defence patrol craft for patrolling indicator nets or bombs at Port W., from station resources including new construction M.L's.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1542A/1. to C. in C. China.)

Oil Tankage.

In Malaya, Rangoon, etc.
(C. in C.F.E., 1752/1, to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| U.S. Task Forces. | Following is Com. Task Force 3 30 1 20 1 30 addressed Com. Task Group 2.6 information to Com. Task Force 2 and Opnav and C. in C. Atlantic, which is also passed for information to Spenavo, London and to Admty. "On 1/9 at 0600, 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers will arrive at 100 miles bearing 31 zero from Paramaribo light ship. In order to conserve fuel the speed shall be 17 knots and course 130° early forenoon. On the 2nd the MEMPHIS and SOMERS will return to Trinidad in order to refuel. The MILWAUKEE and the WARRINGTON, if no longer required, will assume their regular patrol to retire Cape Verde Islands and reverse. At daylight on 1/9, one cruiser and 2 destroyers start fuelling at Trinidad. Signed Opnav. (Spenavo 0056/1). |
| Surinam L/V. | Repeating Spenavo 2008/31. (D.D.I.C. 0126A/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| EMPRESS OF JAPAN. | Your 0355A/30. Readiness to sail refers to Esquimalt. My 2124Z/31 also refers sailing Esquimalt 27/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0138Z/1 to D. of S.T.) |
| Southeast Pacific Force. | Your 2151Q/31. CONCORD and TRENTON due Balboa 13/9. (B.A.D. Washington 0803R/1). |
| FORT DE FRANCE. | S.O.(I) Jamaica 1508R/31 request reply to my 0942Q/30 to Adty. only asking whether voyage of FORT DE FRANCE to Casablanca is approved. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/1 to Adty.) |
| DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. | Admty. 1555A/31. Dates to leave Halifax and arrive Trinidad. Request confirmation that onward escort from 40° W. will be available. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/1 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| Lightship at Surinam. | Lightship at entrance to Surinam River has been temporarily withdrawn. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1016Q/1 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| CATHAY. | Your 1454A/30 CATHAY can be accepted. Yard will be communicated later, job number S 149. (B.A.R.M., 1116R/1 to Admty.) |

/Raider.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

Raider search. Task forces 2 and 3 are resuming regular dispositions and assignments if no further developments by 1700R/1. Estimated position at that time 2.7 021° 30' N. 040° 00' W. steering 120°. 2.5 012° 00' N. 052° 30' W. returning to Hampton Roads. 2.6 007° 00' N. 055° 00' W. probably proceeding to Trinidad for fuel.
U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and 1 destroyer in 010° 00' N. 054° 30' W. (B.A.D. Washington 1151R/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Opnav reports: All Task Forces have been ordered by C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet to discontinue their search for Axis Cruiser at 1800Q/1 if there are no definite developments. RODNEY has been ordered if no further report received to stop search at dusk on 31/8. Regular cruise assignments and dispositions are to be resumed. This has been passed to the Canadian Naval Service by Alusna, Ottawa. (Spenavo 1555/1 to Adty.)

Dispositions. State at 1/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122Q/1)
See Lion Copy.

KATWYK.
ROSENBORG. Ref. A.M.0001/1/5 sect. 1 para. 15 should KATWYK and ROSENBORG both doubtful 7½ knots require 400 and 150 tons coal bunkers respectively cargo phosphates be sailed for convoy Assembly. Port. These ships came out 7. (S.N.O. Curacao 1210QR/1 to Adty.)

Fuelling in U.S.A. Your 1311/30. Presume that relaxation of 24 hours rule for visit would also be granted. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1231Q/1 to B.A.D.)

EMPRESS OF ASIA. Your 0420/27. Desired that EMPRESS OF ASIA should return to U.K. so as to be available for outward convoy sailing about 30/9.
Under sonsideration that vessel should sail as soon as possible independently and at her best speed. In that event numbers accommodated should be in accordance with A.M. 1744/16/7.
Suggest if possible engine repairs referred to in your 0420/27 might be done in U.K. concurrent with preparation for next voyage. Request report as to earliest practicable sailing date. (D.O.D. (H) and D. of S.T. 1237A/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/LE.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| LE TRIOMPHANT. | A.M. 1335A/22/8. Permission has been granted by State Dept. (D.O.D. (F) 1401A/1 -to C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| S.S. GEORGIAN. | Has been chartered to act as accommodation vessel at St. John's Newfoundland and will arrive not later than 14/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1416Z/1). |
| LAFONIA. | Your 0029Z/31 to S.O.(I) Freetown ship received here as LAFONIA arrived Rio Grande 24/8. (D.T.D. 1503A/1 to N.S.H. Q. Ottawa). |
| LIMOUSIN (French). | Arrived Venez. (Caripito, Venezuela 1700/31). |
| Light in Guiana. | Opnav reports: This message has been sent to Com Task Units 2.5 and 2.6 Com Task Forces Two and Three, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Com Ten for action and for information to Spenavo London. It has been reported that in Dutch and British Guiana lights for assisting navigation have been temporarily extinguished. Spenavo 1737/1 to Adty.) |
| RODNEY. | My 1002Q/27. RODNEY arrives Bermuda 4/9 and will sail for Gibraltar on 7/9 in accordance with my 2212Q/25. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/1 to Adty.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.9.1941.
Monday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

Convoy O.8.4. 27/8.

At 2230A/31 in 46 09 24 50 3 pyrotechnics White White Green search failed. At 2313A/29 in 50 48 23 03 German R/T conversation on 2410 kc/s strength 8 loud and clear. M.O. attended accident case in Dutch ship MEERKERK, No. 53, observed U-boat on same course close alongside his starboard side immediately after TREMODA torpedoed at 0107A/27. At 2115A/30 in 49/05 25/20 U-boat sighted and shot at 1000 yards port quarter HARPAGON sudden lift dense fog. No casualties since departure local escort. (GORLESTON 1759A/1).

### Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1422A/1).

1502. From DENBIGHSHIRE. De 59.21 N. 9.27 W. Submarine sighted - Ends. (Valentia Radio 1502/1).

1550Z/31. 2 S/M sighted by Clipper Aircraft in Triangle Fayal Picto San Jorge at 1550Z/31. Course approx. N.N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1938A/1 to CLYDE).

1650/31. 3 Submarines reported in Triangle Fayal Pico San Jorge at 1650/31 steering approx. N.N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1946A/1 to NESTOR, Escort of O.S.4.)

### Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 31/8. By A/C R/502 at 1503 in 55° 9' N. 10° 5' W. One bomb did not explode. The other exploded before U-boat fully submerged, position not observed. Weather bad. (H.Q. R.S. 15 Group 0025/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

**Enemy Convoy in Channel.**

A number of enemy vessels was plotted leaving Boulogne northeastwards at 0030 today and was off Gravelines at daylight. Air R/C reported them as 9 merchant vessels escorted by 9 escort craft or minesweepers. This is the first occasion on which this part of the route has been used in darkness. All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable and V.A. Dover request that 4 may be lent to him whilst the Dover boats are under repair.

**Norwegian Vessels captured.**

A Norwegian Lieutenant has brought to Iceland 3 captured Norwegian cargo vessels INGERTO, NANDI and MUNIN loaded with 8700 tons of coal and 65 picked volunteers.

**Convoy "Dervish".**

The Soviet authorities report that the B.B.C. broadcast the arrival of a convoy, presumably "Dervish", thereby jeopardising future operations.

### Enemy Air Operations.

An escort ship is reported to have been set on fire off the coast of Belgium, by Blenheims this morning. It is reported that three Beauforts attacked with torpedoes two merchant vessels and an escort ship off Stavanger. The larger merchantman was hit twice and was on fire when last seen and the escort ship was also probably hit.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| Operation P.W.18. | This operation was carried out last night by M.T.B's. 30 and 34. |
| Thames Estuary. | 1 magnetic Mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary. |

Blyth was reopened at 0929A and Tyne at 0825.

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Libya and Western Desert. | 7 Wellingtons last night bombed shipping in Benghazi harbour; observation of results was difficult, but smoke was seen rising from one vessel. |
| Egypt and Canal area. | There was an air raid on Port Said from 2152 to 2307 today. No service damage was caused, but there was considerable civilian damage. |

The Italian Fleet oiler TARVISIO passed Istanbul at 0730 today bound for the Aegean. (For former movements and implication of present movements see Diary of to-day's date).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Jibuti. At 0925 G.M.T. today the shore batteries at Jibuti opened fire on HINDUSTAN which was on patrol. No damage is reported.

C. in C. E.I. suggest that as a reprisal our patrols should fire on dhows or other craft hauled up on the beach in Obok area. (Minister of State agreed to this retaliation on 4/9).

America and West Indies.

The area in which the U.S. South East Pacific Force will operate for protection of trade is given in C. in C. A.W.I. 12220/2. British forces will operate to the northward of the U.S. force.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Dover. Request for M.T.B's. | All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable. Request that 4 M.T.B's may be lent while Dover boats are under repair. (V.A. Dover 0921A/2 to Adty.) |
| WELSHMAN. | Admiralty's 0709/1. Deperming will take three to four days at Scapa. Understood WELSHMAN is to be given until 11/9 to work up. Considered that unless additional time can be allowed deperm should be secondary to working up. Request decision. (R.A.D. H.F. 1541A/2). |
| M.A.S.B. Flotillas. | Your 1437A/31. If satisfactory results are obtained from M.A/S.B. now undergoing trials allocation of M.A.S.B. Flotillas will then be reconsidered. (D.D.O.D. C. 1552A/2 to C. in C. W.A.) |
| SOKOL for Mediterranean. | A.M. 0159A/28 and your 1022A/27. Polish authorities concur in proposal to employ SOKOL in Mediterranean subject to review at a later date. 2. Your 1022A/27 is therefore approved. (D.O.D. H. 1715A/2 to F.O.S.) Add to my 1117A/29 para. A. SOKOL about 7/9 in anticipation of Admiralty approval. (F.O.S. 1907A/2 to S.5). |
| 17th and 86th A/S Groups. | Your 1214A/25. Approved. (A.C.N.S. H. 2032A/2 to C. in C. W.A.) |

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

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|---|---|
| Identification Signals. | Admiralty 1818B/22 June. U.S. Signals continue as follows. (D.S.D. 1529A/2). |

### Co-operation with Russia.

| | |
|---|---|
| Employment of British Naval Forces. | Your 1123R/1. No objection to this, but I would like destroyers to have at least 2 days in harbour before sailing with convoy "Dervish". (F.O.2. H.F. 1557A/2 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.) |
| ELECTRA. ACTIVE. | ELECTRA and ACTIVE with 210 R.A.F. BENEDICT personnel are proceeding to Murmansk on 3/9. After disembarkation destroyers will return to Archangel. (Ad. Miles 10320/2 to Adty.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK. — V.A.2's 1535A/1. Para. 3. DUKE OF YORK should pass Beamer Rock, Firth of Forth at 1630/10 and thence proceed into dockyard basin. (C. in C. Rosyth 1021/2).

KOS 7, KOS 9, HOXA, ROMEO. — Following will sail from Clyde for Freetown with O.S. 5 (1) Whalers KOS VII and KOS IX fuelling at Ponta Delgada and at Bathurst if necessary (2) A/S trawlers HOXA and ROMEO fuelling at Fayal and at Bathurst if necessary. (C. in C. W.A. 1047A/2).

SHEFFIELD. — My 1513A/28. All enemy units having been located SHEFFIELD is being ordered to return to Scapa. (V.C.N.S. 1354A/2 to V.A.2.)

PARTHIAN. — Sailed. Route and times as in Capt. (S) 5. 1855A/1 and 2242A/1. E.T.A. dawn 17th. (N.O.I.C Dartmouth 1419/2).
Route. (Capt. S.5 1611A/2 to S/M's Area A).

LOBELIA (Escort for Finnish Ships) — Intend to sail LOBELIA for Tobermory at 1900 today. E.T.A. 0900/3. Request you sail LOBELIA to comply with A.C.O.S. 1949A/1. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1654A/2).

BLANKNEY. — -BLANKNEY and two destroyers to be detailed by Captain D Liverpool are to arrive Barrow 0800A/7 to escort INDOMITABLE to Liverpool. Duration of escort 24 hours. (C. in C. W.A. 1716/A/2 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

EURYALUS. — My 2354/1. Adjust arrival to pass Beamer Rock at 1230 tomorrow and thence proceed into dockyard basin. (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/2 to EURYALUS).
My 2002A/1. Date of sailing from Rosyth may be altered to A.M./11th if required. (V.A.2. 2331A/2 to EURYALUS).

BRADFORD. — Your 1234A/2. Request you sail BRADFORD to Londonderry 8/9. (C. in C. W.A. 1924/2 to C. in C. Nore).

KING GEORGE V Escort. — Your 1010A/1/9. BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, VIVACIOUS detailed. (R.A.D. 2210/2 to V.A.2.)

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

M.T.B. Patrol off The Hook.

Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit 3 are to carry out a patrol tonight Tuesday passing through the following points. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 0956A/2 to BEEHIVE).

Unknown Ship.

CAPE PALLISER's 1124/2. Proceed to investigate. (V.A.2. 1239A/2 to LONDON).
My 1239A/2. Wait further orders at Hvalfiord. (V.A.2. 1255A/2 to LONDON).
Unknown vessel in sight 030° North 5 miles failure to reply to challenge. Have attacked. Unable to close distance. My position 025° 62° 26' N. 16° 25' W. (CAPE PALLISER 1330/2).
My 1330/2. 1307 in 061° 58' N. 017° 42' W. lost sight 320° 9 miles, steering approx. 310°. Am steering 310°, 13 knots until 1530. (CAPE PALLISER 1345/2 to S.O.T. N.P)
Arrived LONDON 1630. (A.C.I.C. 1701/2).
My 1255A/2. Revert to normal notice for steam. (V.A.2. 1955A/2 to LONDON).

INGERTO.
NANDI.
MUNIN.
captured.

Following from Ullring. Lieut. (?Tamber) with 3 captured Norwegian Cargo Vessels INGERTO, NANDI, MUNIN loaded 8700 tons coal and 65 picked volunteers arrived Reykjavik. Vessels with own crew and a guard of 3 soldiers. Propose to unload cargo at Reykjavik and send ships with guard to U.K.
Lieut. Tamber with 65 men to be sent to London at first opportunity. Request approval. (A.C.I.C. 1306/2 to Adty.)

M.L's off Dunkirk.

My 1237. Add two M.L's leave Dover at 2200 to operate in vicinity of outer Ruytingen returning to Dover at about 0400A/3. (V.A. Dover 1814A/2).

### British Air Activity.

Patrols.

"Fate V" in operation 0900/2 until 1730/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 0820/2).
"Hornli" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/2).
"Bert" now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1214/2)
"Trost" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2230/2).
"Stab" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 2324/2).

/S.B.R.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity.-Contd.

S.B.R. — Ops. 934. 2/9. Institute S.B.R. in area 53 to north of 49° 30' N. from 1400/2 to 1600/3 and in area 51 to south of 50° N. from 0001/2 to 0600/5. (H.Q.C.C. 1018/2).

Operation "Nomad". — C. Two A/C of 500 Sqdn. to carry out operation "Nomad" between Ostend and Texel to-night. (Chatham 1145/2).

R/C of Dutch Coast. — Two A/C 407 Squadron to carry out independent moonlight R/C of shipping along coast between Texel and Borkum tonight. A/C to carry three 250 lb. S.A.P. bombs, fused 11 secs. delay. (Chatham 1210/2).

Ostend bombed. — During Night 1/2 one Wellington bombed Ostend Docks. (H.Q.B.C. 1223/2).

Operation J.R. — Intend to begin Operation J.R. at dawn 4th. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2123A/2).

### Enemy Air Activity.

ATLANTIC. — (Belgian Trawler, 88 Tons) Attacked by A/C on 25/8, 10 miles N.W. of Bishops Light. Damaged in engine-room. No casualties. (D.S. 726).

### Mining.

Operation P.W.18. — Arrivals M.T.B's 30 and 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0730A/2). BEEHIVE reports P.W.18 carried out in position ordered. (C. in C. Nore 0749/2).

Tyne. — My 2240/1. Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0825/2)

Blyth. — Port open.(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0929A/2).

Nymph Bank Channel Search. — Admiralty 1654A/1. Intend to sail Minesweeper 2000 today to commence sweeping 0700A/tomorrow. Request co-operation of Coastal Command aircraft be arranged. Code word "Tincture". (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540A/2).

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining-Contd.

**Operation E.H.**

Carry out operation E.H. on night 3rd/4th. (F.O.2. H.F. 1854A/2 to C.S.10).
V.A.2's 1702A/2. Intend to pass Hoxa Gate at 1000/3 proceeding West of Orkneys through following -positions A. and B. Thence on a course and speed 097° 28 knots, MANXMAN proceeding 35 knots. On completion of operation intend passing through (B) at 0600/4 and thence returning to Scapa through position (A), speed of advance 24 knots. (C.S.10 1957A/2)
Operation E.H. Mines are to be laid with flooders set to 14 days. (V.A. 2. 1928A/2 to C.S.10).

**Thames Estuary.**

One magnetic mine detonated at 1703/2 in 123° S. Shoebury buoy 4½ cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1921/2).

**SCOTT.**

Sailed for Denmark Strait 2030. (A.C.I.C. 2329/2 to R.A.M.)

### Enemy Intelligence.

**Enemy Convoy.**

A number of enemy vessels was plotted by shore R.D.F. leaving Boulogne Northeastwards at 0030 today and was off Gravelines at daylight. Air R/C at daylight reported shipping to be one large and 8 smaller vessels accompanied by nine escort craft or minesweepers. This is first occasion this part of the route has been used in darkness.
All M.T.B's at Dover are unserviceable. (V.A. Dover 0921A/2 to Adty.)

**Iceland-Faroes Passage.**

One enemy Merchant Vessel bearing 030° distance 5 miles, course 000°. My position 025° 62° N. 17° W. 26 miles. (CAPE PALLISER 1124/2).
One enemy vessel, type unknown, destroyer or larger warship, bearing 030° 5 miles, course 000°. My position 025° 62° N. 17° W. 26 miles. (CAPE PALLISER 1124/2).

**Brest.**

P.R.U. St. Eval 1255/2.

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties and Defects.

IBIS. — My 1455/31. IBIS has developed engine defects and arrived Rosyth A.M. today for repairs. (C. in C. Rosyth 1015/2).

BANDIT. — Repairs at Montrose not satisfactory and vessel not seaworthy. Am bringing BANDIT to Dundee forthwith to effect repairs which it is hoped will be complete in 48 hours. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1203/2).

MONTGOMERY. — My 1354/1. Sailing deferred owing to 2 defective engine room fans. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1801A/2).

### Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.11. — My 1513A/28 para 3. SHEFFIELD should be detached and ordered to return to Scapa.
2. C. in C. W.A. is signalling route.
3. DERBYSHIRE will assume escort of slow portion.
4. DUNEDIN should join slow portion as already arranged.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1530A/2 to REPULSE, C.IN C. W.A.)

O.S.4. — As convenient after nightfall on 3/9 detach FIDELITY with instructions to proceed direct to Gibraltar in accordance with previous orders. (D.T.D. 2005A/2 to BIDEFORD for Commodore O.S.4).

O.S.5.
HOXA.
ROMEO.
KOS 7.
KOS 9. — Sailed A/S Trawlers HOXA, ROMEO, as additional escort and Whalers KOS 7 and KOS 9 in convoy O.S.5. Destination Freetown for onward routeing HOXA to Far East, ROMEO, KOS 7, and KOS 9 to Mediterranean via Cape. Vessels will break off as a group under command of HOXA to fuel in Azores trawlers at Fayal, whalers at Ponta Delgada, rejoining convoy on completion, attention being paid to A.M. 0212/5/7. The same procedure will be followed for fuelling Bathurst. Request fuelling arrangements be made in Azores.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2304A/2 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. My 1825A/26. PRINCE DAVID sighted unknown ship before dawn 27/8 in 34° 30' N. 51° 47' W., course 140° high speed. Possibly armed merchant raider or supply ship. Unknown ship reported in 26° 13' N. 57° 47' at 1530Z/28. Course 160°. Speed 20 knots. Possibly same ship sighted by PRINCE DAVID. AUSTRALIND now seriously overdue. CONGELLA now reported arrived Colombo. (D.D.I.C. 1705A/2 to C. in C. H.F., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NESTOR. Arrived Ponta Delgada 0845 G.M.T./2. Left 1900 G.M.T./2. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0902/2, 1812/2.)

Vichy Convoys. French convoy routes run from point (?P) to E. coast Corsica thence via Cape Corse direct to Toulon. (11) Convoy B.I leaves Toulon 1200/3 by reverse (?route point P 1200/4 Messina 1000/6. Convoy C, 3 ships 10 knots Messina 1000/2 point P A.M/4 Marseilles A.M./5. (F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/2, to O.24, O.21.)

JONQUIL, SPIREA. My 1828A/1. Para. 2, amend E.T.A. at 025° West to read 0600/2. S. of A. 9 knots. (11) Act accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058A/2, to JONQUIL, SPIREA.)

O.23. Admty. 1913A/31. Propose sailing Netherlands S/M O.23 tomorrow, 3rd; request concurrence. (F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/2 to C. in C. Med.)

SEVERN. Leave patrol after dark/3 and adjust speed to R/V with escort in position 350 Spartel 5 at 1600 A/4. Report if unable to comply within 1 hour. T.B.R. arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1708A/2, to SEVERN.)

U/Boats. Reported repairing in Rio Strait. (Las Palmas, 1730/2.) See U-Boat Campaign.

TAKU. In view of F.O.S. 1058 A and a dock not being available for some time, intend to sail TAKU P.M./3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808A/2, to C. in C. Med.)

H.G.72. Departures WILD SWAN, LEITH, BLUEBELL, BORRAS, FARNDALE, WALLFLOWER, CAMPANULA, HYDRANGEA and MAPLIN CAMPION with H.G.72. BOREAS as in my 2232A/1. WILD SWAN, FARNDALE, until dusk/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/2, to Admty., etc.)

PIORUN. My 1153A/1. (HIGHLANDER, PIORUN expected Ponta Delgada.) Delete PIORUN. (C. in C.W.A., 1926A/2, to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.

FURIOUS. My 1550A/22. Adjustments to aircraft, personnel and stores. (D.N.A.D.2284A/2 to S.O.Force H, etc.) See Lion Copy.

/O.23.TAKU...

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

O.23.
TAKU.

My 1218A/2 (N.T. in W.D.) All positions N., and W., add -
(A) Netherlands Submarine O.23 sailed Gibraltar 1500/3rd through (?000° or 292°) Cape Spartel 8 and 036° 40' 009° 10' E.T.A., 2nd position 0600/4.
(B) TAKU sailed Gibraltar 1700/3 routed as O.23 E.T.A. 2nd position 0200/5. Submerged during daylight/4.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2130A/2 to N.A. Stn.)

ENCOUNTER.

My 1154A/30. Amend E.T.A., of ENCOUNTER at Ponta Delgada to read 1500A/5.
(N.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 2150A/2, to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM.

Will be in 8° S., 31° 30' W. 1200Z/3 patrolling a line to 4° 30' S. 28° W., until approx., 6/9.
(D.O.D.(F)0034A/2 to Spenavo.)

W.S.10.X.

Departure 1300/1, REVENGE, WOODRUFF,MIGNONETTE, ARMERIA, AMARANTHUS, with Convoy W.S.10.X.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0805N/2, to Admty.)

Distress Signal 18/8.

U.S.A. ship COLORADAN when in 12° 10' S., 24° 53' W., at 2140Z/18 sighted 3 white rockets towards which she steamed for 15 miles but found nothing.
(S.O.I. Cape Town, 1012B/2, to Admty.)

Convoy S.T.2.

Departure 1300/2, BRIDGEWATER, CYCLAMEN,ASPHODEL, CLEMATIS, with southbound convoy S.T.2.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1101/N/2, to Admty.)

M/S Groups 156, 157, 158.

Your 2315/28. (A) M/S Group 156 consisting of GOS 7, KOS 10, KOS 11, and KOS 12, delayed in Capetown owing to Malaria and Blackwater affecting over half total complement. Anticipate that Crews for GOS 7 and KOS 12 will be assembled by 4/9 and two vessels will be sailed.

/Date of .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

M/S Groups 156,157, 158. Contd.

Date of sailing of remaining two indefinite. Advantage is being taken of delay to effect repairs and to replace S.A.Gear which was removed at Freetown.
(B) M/S Group 157 GOS 2 and GOS 3 at Durban.
(C) M/S Group 158 composition unknown.
CORDELIK and NORSE arrived 27/8 Walvis Bay for boiler cleaning and repairs.
(F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1534B/2 to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L.85.

No signal has been received reporting names of ocean escort of S.L.85.
(D.T.D. 1618A/2 to S.O.I.Freetown.)

Air Sqdns.

Your 1907/18. 2 medium bomber squadrons are being re-equipped in Middle East with torpedo bomber aircraft. Anticipated two squadrons will be completed by mid-October. A.O.C.-in-C.,M.E., is kept informed of reinforcement programme and should be able to give you the most recent information.
(Hd. of M., 1701A/2 to C. in C. Med.)

W.S.10.
EDINBURGH.
HAWKINS.
JUPITER.

Arrivals 2/9 Simonstown, BATAVIA and EDINBURGH. Capetown, Capetown portion of convoy WS.10. Departures Simonstown, HAWKINS at 0617 to relieve EDINBURGH as escort of Durban portion of WS.10, JUPITER at 1745 for Durban S. of A., 20 knots, E.T.A., 1000/4.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1815Z/2, to Admty.)

SARABANDE, ST.WISTAN, C.F.2.

SARABANDE and ST.WISTAN are to proceed to Lagos (Nigeria) forthwith and patrol a sector (? 190) to 210° to a depth of 40 miles until the arrival of C F 2. E.T.A., of convoy 1600/?4.
(C. in C.S.A., 1844N/2 to SARABANDE, ST.WISTAN.)

Ex-Italian Vessels.

My 1719/30. N.T. in W.D. Add following 4 ships which arrived Buenos Aires 31/8. CASTELBIANCO, DANTE, TESIO and VAL DARNO.
(Head of M. 1953A/2 to C. in C.S.A.)

Fuelling Escorts at Sea.

Admty. 1927/23. (see Shipping.) I fully concur, Oiler RAPIDOL will be employed for this trial as soon as available after present operation with DUNEDIN but conditions for fuelling in this area are often not good.
(C. in C.S.A., 2207N/2, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

VIRGINIA S. — Italian, ex-Greek, left Trieste 28/8 for Piraeus and Istanbul. (D.S., 726, 2/9.)

Black Sea. — Intelligence up to 27/8 received from Soviet Naval Staff. (30 M.M., Moscow to W.O., 0323/2.) See Lion Copy.

OTUS. THUNDERBOLT. — Disregard my 2241/1 in view of Capt. S.1's 2350C/1.
(Capt. S.10, 0835B/2, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)
Capt. (S) 1's 2350C/1. OTUS proceeding to 035° 40' 018° 16' and THUNDERBOLT to 035°25' 018° 20', convoy expected to pass respective positions at about 1100 and 1200/3.
(Capt.S.10. 1324B/2.)
My 1324, amend longitude position to OTUS 018° 08' THUNDERBOLT 018° 10'.
(Capt. S.10, 2127B/2, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

Air Raids. — 1. Egypt. My A.861 1/9 para. 2. No R.A.F.damage or casualties in raids on Port Said and Alexandria night 31/1, some damage to R.A.O.C. workshops and 2 houses demolished Alexandria where 5 Naval and Army Officers killed 4 wounded, and 5 soldiers wounded. No damage or casualties reported Port Said.

Benghazi, Bardia, Gambut, bombed. — 2. Western Desert Night 31/1, 3 Blenheims, 2 Marylands, 6 Wellingtons despatched on special operation to attack petrol storage barge and tanker at Juliana Mole in Benghazi Harbour. Blenheims attacked first while Marylands bombed town as diversion. 1 Blenheim dropped bombs within 25 yards of target. Results obtained by remaining 2 Blenheims unknown as both are missing. Wellingtons attacked 2 hours later. No hits. Further 2 Wellingtons bombed Bardia and landing ground near Ras El Tin in Cyrenaica. 3 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut starting small fires.
(H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1001/2.)

Vichy convoys Z1 and A1. — Return route as follows.
(C. in C. Med., 1058C/2, to Med. Fleet.)

/PROTEUS.....

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

PROTEUS
TAKU.

Your 1700C/1/9 and your 0035C/27/7. One directing gear for Type 129 is being shipped to you in PROTEUS sailing for Mediterranean tomorrow 3/9. Second spare directing gear for Type 129 shipped to you in S.S. AFRICAN PRINCE. In view of above it should not be necessary to delay TAKU.
(F.O.S., 1058A/2, to S.1.) See 1532/3.

SAINT
BRIEUX.
(? SAINT
BRIEUC.)
(French.)

Arrival 29/8.
(Barcelona 1209/2 to M. of W.T.)

Russia.

Re demolitions of ships. Report from Adm.Miles.
(D.N.I., 1435A/2 to C. in C. Med.)
See Lion Copy.

TARVISIO.
(Italian.)

TARVISIO sailed for Aegean 0730 G.M.T. today.
(N.A. Istanbul, 1302C/2, to C. in C. Med.)

Comment.

N.I.D. Comment. TARVISIO is an Italian Fleet Oiler of 10,900 tons. In spite of our protests she went through the Straits and returned to Italy from Roumania with a cargo of oil last June. She arrived at Chanak from Aegean on 10/8, claiming to have been taken off the list of Italian warships and to be a merchant vessel and therefore entitled to proceed through the Straits. Turkish Govt. refused to agree to her passage and said that no facilities or pilot. would be given, but that, nevertheless, if she did proceed up the Straits, she would not be fired on. In future, passage to ships on the original Italian list of warships would be refused.

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy of 5 ships including ALBAJULIA and BALCIC reported left Trieste for Istanbul 28/8. (Capt. S.1, 1510C/2, to PERSEUS.)

URSULA.

Your 1614A/31. URSULA was near missed. My 2342B/27 was to inform submarines of type of air attack to expect. Bomb referred to appeared to explode on impact with surface of the sea.
(S.O.S/M's Malta, 1612B/2, to Admty.)

Tripoli
bombed.

7 Wellingtons dropped bombs and incendiaries Tripoli power station from 2000 to 2300 hours.
(H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1645/2.)

/TARVISIO.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

TARVISIO. Italian fleet oiler TARV(?IS)IO passed Istanbul 0730/2 for Aegean.
(Capt. S.1, 2110C/2, to PERSEUS.)

Situation Report 136. Heavy dive and high level bombing attack on Tobruk 1/9 without serious damage. One certain and 3 probably shot down. R.A.F. attacked Benghazi harbour night 31/1. Result uncertain. (2) Syria. Repatriation convoy D has left Beirut.
(C. in C. Med. 2332/2.)

Syria. Attitude of Free French. (C. in C.M.E., 2350/2, to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HILDA (Italian). 1034/1 from N.O.I.C. Karachi being passed to C. in C. E.I., Admty and S.N.O. P.G. Engagement of certifying party has been approved. Request instructions regarding Prize Court proceeding for HILDA and other ships concerned. Ref. Naval Prize Manual, Article 4, presume Persian Govt. will not be allowed to contest seizure. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0401Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply, 0948/4.
Admty. 0042/2. (0049/2 intended N.T. in W.D.) I welcome the news that Adm. Dreyer is coming out to assist us with this difficult problem. I would very much like him to visit Aden. (C. in C. E.I., 0646Z/2 to Admty).

Use of Bandar Shapur. Request decision (? as to) intended use of Bandar (?Sharur) S.N.O. P.G. has received information that U.S. Govt. have a contract rail tracks for extensions of line from Bandar (?Sharur) to Caspian. In view of Admty 2313/29 para 6 development of Railway from Persian Gulf to Caspian, matter (?appears to be) of importance, observing there is no railway from Basra to Caspian. S.N.O. P.G. is to report by signal present conditions of port of Bandar (?Sharur) and its facilities. (C. in C. E.I., 0648Z/2 to Admty).

Diego Garcia Addu Atoll. Re garrisons, etc. (Easfar, 0845/2, 0850/2 to East Indies and Air Ministry). See Operations Volume.

GOS II, GOS III, AUSTRALIA. Durban departures GOS II and GOS III. E.T.A. at Kilindini 1000Z/10. S. of A. 9 knots. Routed as in my 1400Z/19/5. (ii) AUSTRALIA in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/1.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1402Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Zanzibar). My 1402Z/2 GOS II and GOS III have returned to harbour owing to defects. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1652Z/2).

MONTTIEDE (Spanish). EXETER reports sighting Spanish ship MONTTIEDE in 025° 35' S., 035° 33' E., course 045° speed 8 knots. Request last reported movements of this ship. (C. in C. E.I., 1420Z/2 to Admty)
My 1420/2, time of sighting was 0910Z/2.
(C. in C. E.I., 1644Z/2).

/U.S. Shipping...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Shipping, Red Sea.

C. in C. Med., 1333/1, C. in C. E.I., 1258/22. Numbers passed through Aden in July and August. Question of protection. (S.N.O.R.S., 1632Z/2 to C. in C. E.I.) See Operations Volume.

HINDUSTAN fired on at Djibouti.

Governor of Djibouti has opened his offensive against our patrols. HINDUSTAN was fired on by Shore Batteries at 0925 G.M.T./2. Would you concur that as a reprisal our patrols should be directed to choose the best Dhows or other craft they can see hauled up on the beach in Obok area and fire round for round? In this case Djibouti fired 3 Salvoes so we fire 3 back. The practice to be continued. Being passed to Admty.
(C. in C. E.I., 1720Z/2 to G.H.Q. M.E. for Sec. of State.) Reply, 1700/4.

F/W Aircraft.

6 Focke Wulf 200 have arrived in Greece. Comment. Operational endurance of these aircraft is 2,700 miles with 4,400 pound bomb load. Reported they may be able to carry torpedoes.
(D.D.I.C., 1759A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

CARTHAGE AUSTRALIA.

Following movements ordered: CARTHAGE leaves Durban a.m./5 provides close cover for CITY OF CANTERBURY then X Y Z patrol, arrives Durban a.m./14 AUSTRALIA E.T.A. 0400Z/8.
(C. in C. E.I., 1854Z/2 to N.L.O. Durban).

NUBIAN, ISIS.

Your 0449Z/15. Request your intentions for onward passage of NUBIAN and ISIS.
(D.O.D. (F) 1933A/2 to C. in C. E.I.)

Persian Gulf.

Summary of report on R/C of Persian Gulf and defence measures. (C. in C. India, 2145/2 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

**Panama Route.** Your 1859 6/7. Request M. of W.T. be asked to communicate names of ships chosen to proceed via Panama as they are selected. (C. in C. China, 0400Z/2 to Admty).

**MARECHAL JOFFRE. (French).** Arrived 2/9. (Manila 0610Z/2 to M. of W.T.)

**GLASGOW.** Intend to carry out two hour after repair trials of GLASGOW. Speed attained will be reported and 20 knots in service not exceeded as maximum vide your 0515/14/6 until further instructions received. (C. in C. China, 0723Z/2 to Admty).

**Suspicious Submarines.** Position 010° 13' N., 110° 23' E., 29/8 one or possibly two unidentified submarines course S.W. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0736Z/2 to Admty etc).

**TEVIOT BANK.** In order to reply to your 1015/29, grateful to know if any particular operations are envisaged for TEVIOT BANK. (C. in C. China, 0855Z/2 to Admty).

**JOAO DE LISBOA.** B.N.A. Lisbon has signalled "Portuguese Naval Authorities request permission for Portuguese Sloop JOAO DE LISBOA proceeding from Macao to Hong Kong for docking 20/9". Request early report whether docking facilities available. (Head of M., 1700A/2 to C. in C. China).

### America & West Indies.

**LIMOUSIN (French).** Admty 0133/31/8. LIMOUSIN arrived Caripito 1/9. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0028R/2 to Admty etc).

**BURNHAM.** Your 1209Z/31. BURNHAM can be accepted. Same date, Boston. Same job No. as RIPLEY. (B.A.R.M., 1114R/2 to C.C.N.F.)

/Pacific Force.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pacific Force. | Formation of U.S. South East Pacific Force and orders for patrol to northward of it by DESPATCH, DIOMEDE, and PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/2 to Cdre. W.I.) See Operations Volume. |
| CAMPILO. | My 0944Q/23. Spanish CAMPILO reported sailed Port Arthur 28/8 for Barcelona. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1309Q/2 to Admty). |
| TRUANT. | My 1748R/26. TRUANT leaves New London at 0800 G.M.T./5. C.C.N.F. pass to FORTH. (B.A.R.M., 1346R/2 to Admty etc). |
| Ocean Routeing. | Reorganisation of Routeing Officers, scheme for approval. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1501Q/2 to Admty). See Lion Copy. |
| EMPRESS OF ASIA. | Your 1237/1. Re numbers of Service personnel etc. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1609Z/2 to D. of S.T.) |
| RODNEY. | Your 2212/1. RODNEY will probably not be required to sail until 14/9. F.O. Force H., is requested to inform you of time she should arrive at Gibraltar so that you may sail her to comply. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1707A/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| FORTH. | My (? 1431)/23/8. Recommend FORTH visits Halifax before returning to U.K. to collect Stores and spare propellors. Suggest ship be used for freighting stores or cargo for Ministry of Food from Halifax or U.S. (FORTH, 1711Z/2 to Admty). Approved. (D.O.D. H., 1639A/3). |
| PORTADOC, NEW NORTHLAND, survivors. | E.T.A. 1220, Gate 1330p/7. Passengers all Mercantile Marine, 12 Officers 58 ratings from NEW NORTHLAND. 6 Ratings from PORTADOC. C. in C. A.W.I., 2232Q/2 (N.T. in W.R.) guns are S.1. 2 and (?3). (CIRCASSIA, 2045B/2 to C.O.A.C., Halifax). |
| Refits in U.S.A. | Re publicity and relaxation of censorship. (B.A.R.M., 2140R/2 to Admty) See Lion Copy. |

/LEOPOLD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

LEOPOLD, ILE DE RE. — New York reports French LEOPOLD was cleared at New York 30/8 for Casablanca but was still being held 2/9 detained by French instructions. Only French ILE DE RE, is to sail New York 3/9 for Newport News to load and sail about 8/9 for Casablance. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 21482/2 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMBASSAGE. 3 survivors landed Greenock. As EMBASSAGE was missing after attack by S/Ms on Convoy O.S.4 during night of 26-27/8, seems probable she was torpedoed, though nothing definite at present known Was on passage to Bathurst and Pepel with general cargo. (D.S., 726, 2/9).

Convoy O:G 71 (attacked 19/8, etc). A/T 1600A/23/8 and my 1658/23. Apparently undue reliance on H/F D/F by GURKHA led him to take the destroyers out unduly far on an offensive sweep and they were still remote from convoy when first attack developed.
2. On occasion of second attack conditions were normal, Asdic conditions good, no explanation forthcoming.
3. Port flank and quarter of convoy were inadequately guarded from the direction of third attack, close screen having dropped back to pick up survivors from second attack, and destroyer of outer screen detached to create a diversion.
4. No illumination was provided by the close screen on the flanks of the convoy during any attack. (F.O.C.N.A., 1222A/2 to Admty amended 1032A/3).

Submarines Reported.

2044/1. By D/F at 2044/1 G.M.T. U-boat in Area 50° to 50.30 N., 22° 30' to 23.30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0010A/2).

1109Z. By D/F at 1109Z/2, position of U-boat was 50° N., - 51° N., 24° W., - 26° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1242A/2 to WESTON etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions. A considerable number between 58° and 62° 30' and 22° - 28°. Several 54° - 56° 15° - 20. Several 50° - 51° 30' 15° - 20°. (D.D.I.C., 1351A/2).

Rio Strait. Unconfirmed report two submarines last week at anchor in Rio Strait apparently repairing. Investigating further. (Las Palmas. 1730/2 to Admty

1856. Port Patrick Radio de DPK. At 1856 received SSSS 62.45 N., 21.58 W., submarine sighted, DENBIGHSHIRE (ends) (Liverpool W/T 1905/2).
Intercepted at 1932 G.M.T. De unknown station Cancel my SSSS at 1850/2. DENBIGHSHIRE.1930/2.
(Port Patrick Radio, 2030/2 to Navy Charge Greenock

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C — Am over enemy S/M in 61.04 N., 25.26 W., Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, hits nil. -(A/C duty I, 1414/2, 1416/2 to Reykjavik H/F D/F Stn) I 269 Sqdn. (D.S.727).

By A/C — Am over enemy S/M in 59.40 N., 7.42 W., have attacked enemy with bombs level, estimate no hits. (A/C call sign V.6 T., 2010/2 to Wick) P.612 Sqdn. (D.S. 727).
My 2010, enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C V.6.T., 2020/2 to Wick) Details of attack. (A.C.H.Q., Rosyth, 2360/2).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Two M.L's from Dover operated last night near the Outer Ruytingen.

M.T.B's patrolled off the Hook of Holland last night.

Fog.

Harwich was closed at 1956A today, on account of fog. Dartmouth and Humber were also affected.

Operations by TRIDENT

TRIDENT reports that at 1046C/19 she gunned and obtained 5 certain hits on an unescorted westbound merchant vessel at the entrance to Bredshun. At 1527C/22 she sank S.S. OSTPREUSSEN in an escorted westbound convoy of 4 ships near 70° 10' N. 21° 5' E. At 1740C/30 she obtained hits with torpedo on a 1500 and a 3000 ton ship respectively in an eastbound escorted convoy of 4 ships in 70° 35' N. 21° 45' E.; it is believed the smaller ship sank: the larger ship was seen listing and heavily on fire 2 hours later.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. VOLESUS was attacked off the Tyne at 2050 B.S.T. today and S.S. CITY OF AUCKLAND at 2223.

S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE was attacked at 0957 today in 52° 46' N. 23° 0' W. but was not seriously damaged and completed her repairs by 1400 G.M.T.

WOLFHOUND was damaged by bombing this evening off the Humber. The fore part of the ship was sunk.

Mining.

Operation "E.H."

F.O.10th.C.S. in KENYA left Scapa at 1001A today with MANXMAN and LIGHTNING. Fighter escort will be provided until return to harbour.

/S.N.23A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

S.N.23A. PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK left Port Z.A. at 2109A to lay mines north of the Butt of Lewis.

Mines were detonated today off Milford Haven and in the Thames Estuary.

South Atlantic.

Destroyers. C. in C. S.A. asks that two of the four destroyers detached to Gibraltar may be returned to him, owing to the difficulty of maintaining full escort groups.

REVENGE REVENGE reported today that a collision occurred last night between her and S.S. ORION, one of the ships she is escorting in W.S.10 X. Only minor damage was caused.

Mediterranean.

Malta. Malta was attacked by six aircraft last night. No naval damage is reported.

URGE reports that on 26/8 she damaged Italian S.S. AQUITANIA with a torpedo hit and sank a tanker when southbound in convoy off Marittimo. On 28/8 she hit and probably sank a DUILIO class liner when southbound off Capri in company with OCEANIA and NEPTUNIA.

Nine naval Swordfish attacked a convoy of 5 merchant ships escorted by 5 destroyers at 0005 today in 37° 33' N. 16° 0' E. One merchant vessel of 8000 to 9000 tons was torpedoed and blew up shortly afterwards. A 9000 ton and two other merchant ships were hit by torpedoes and at least two were seriously damaged.
The attack was a complete surprise and wild disorder ensued, destroyers firing on their own ships.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Libya & Western Desert.

R.A.F. Wellingtons bombed Derna, Bardia and Gazala landing grounds last night.

F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut last night.

Tobruk.

A combined high level bombing and minelaying attack was made on Tobruk last night by 15 enemy aircraft.

U-Boat Campaign.

FORT RICHEPANSE was torpedoed this evening in 52.34 N., 20.23 W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

WELSHMAN. — Your 1541A/2. Deperming with re-range is to be carried out at Scapa.
2. Additional time up to four days may be allowed if required, but deperming should be secondary to working up.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1115A/3 to R.A.D. H.F.)

One HUNT and 40th A/S Group. — C. in C. Plymouth 2306/27 when PUCKERIDGE is ready for service and worked up request you will transfer her or another HUNT and 40th A/S Group to C. in C. Plymouth's command.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1727A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

GLEANER, Iceland survey. — Your 1601A/3/9. GLEANER can be spared if a Wair from Western Approaches can be returned to my Command. Owing to damage to WOLFHOUND, GLEANER cannot be spared without a relief.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2345/3 to Admty).

### Movements.

MANXMAN. — Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S., 0210A/3).

MINERVE. — Your 2352A/2. Proceed Lerwick through following positions. T.B.R. in force.
(Capt. S.9. 0503A/3 to MINERVE).

A/S Trawlers and whalers for Freetown. — Sailed A/S trawlers HOXA and ROMEO and whalers KOS 7 and KOS 9 for Freetown via Azores. HOXA and ROMEO E.T.A. Fayal 11/9 coal required 100 tons KOS 7 KOS 9 E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 11/9 oil required. 80 tons.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock. 0908/3 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

Western Patrol Sailing of A.M.C.'s — In order to secure A/S protection ships of Western Patrol are sailed for and brought in from Patrol with O.G., O.S., H.G., and S.L. Convoys.
As H.G. Convoys no longer R/V with local escort it is requested that Cdres., may be instructed to cross lat. 048° N., at a given time and that the time so ordered may be included in Admty route signal and F.O.C.N.A. 2000 situation report thus enabling full use to be made of these Convoys as in the past. (S.O.W.P., 0939A/3 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.

/ELECTRA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

ELECTRA, ACTIVE. — ELECTRA and ACTIVE sail for Murmansk 3/9 from Archangel. (D.O.D. (H) 1034A/3 to TRIDENT).

ST. BAUMOYH. — Passed Wick from Lerwick en route with 30 Norwegian refugees on board ST. BAUMOYH 42 feet. (R.N.O. Wick 1203/3).

RIPLEY. — Proceed to your destination forthwith. On arrival forward your reasons in writing as to why you anchored off Dunrobin and the names of the people you landed.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1252/3 to RIPLEY).

GREENFLY. — Gt. Yarmouth 3/9 arrival T.H.V. ALERT with L.V. No. 73 in tow ALERT reports parting company with H.M.T. GREENFLY in fog last seen in company of two tugs. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1635A/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

INDOMITABLE, escort. — Your 1716A/2. WALKER, VOLUNTEER detailed. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1645A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Operations by TRIDENT. — Arrival TRIDENT, Following attacks carried out.
1. 1046/C/19/8 entrance to Bredshun, unescorted merchant vessel westbound. 2 torpedoes. Missed. Gunned 21 rounds 5 certain hits.
2. 0900C/21 vicinity 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E., BREMSE westbound 4 torpedoes. Missed.
3. 1247C/21 vicinity of 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E. 1500 ton tanker unescorted westbound. 2 torpedoes. Missed.
4. 1527C/22 vicinity 70° 10' N., 21° 5' E., escorted convoy 4 ships westbound. 6 torpedoes OSTPREUSSEN 3,000 tons sunk.
5. 1740C/30 70° 35' N., 21° 45' E., convoy 4 ships of 1500 and 3000 tons respectively. Latter listing heavily and on fire 2 hours later, other believed sunk. 56 D.C.'s dropped close after attack.
No A/S activity other than escorts this area and little air activity. TRIDENT no defects.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1142C/3).

/TRIDENT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations. - Contd.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TRIDENT, TIGRIS, Torpedoes. | B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1153C/3. | See Operations Volume. |
| Operation M. | C.S.1. 1220/3. | See Operations Volume. |
| Convoy "Dervish". | Employment of escorting destroyers. (Miles 1553C/3) See Operations Volume. Arrival broadcast by B.B.C. (Miles 2019C/3) See Operations Volume. | |

### British Air Operations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Operation E.H. (See Mining.) | V.A. 2's 1702/2 Fighter Escort will be by single Blenheims until 1800/3 then two Blenheims until dark. 4 Blenheims from first light 4th until 1000 then single Blenheims until return to Harbour. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0126/3 to F.O.C. 10 C.S.) |
| Patrols. | HORNLI now being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0828/3). STAB will be flown by two aircraft proceeding in company to make Landfall off Utvoer then splitting and timed so that northernmost aircraft reaches lat. 062° 30' N., and southernmost lat. 060° 20' N., at last light 3/9. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/3 to C.S.10). My 1302/3. Aircraft will make reports on 6000 Kc/s. Suggest you set watch to intercept. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1550/3 to C.S.10). My 1302/3. Southernmost aircraft returned owing to engine failure. At 1800 aircraft in 61° 30' N., 05° E., reported clouds 10/10 at 400 feet. Visibility 15 miles except in frequent showers. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1958/3 to C.S.10). |
| P.R.U. | Haugesund - Stavanger - Kristiansand P.R.U. in Operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1534/3). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE. AAAA 52.46 N., 23.00 W. attacked. (Liverpool, W/T 0957/3 de GLD) (W.D. Note:- See also U-boat Campaign - FORT RICHEPANSE). De FORT RICHEPANSE no serious damage 1050 G.M.T. /3. (Valentia Radio, 1054/3).

W.S.11. Fire opened at an F.W. 0645Z/2 in 51° 50' N., 17° 51' W. (CAIRO, 1215Z/3).

S.S. VOLESUS. Cullercoats Radio reports: A A A A VOLESUS attacked near 20 Q can Buoy. 2050 B.S.T. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2107/3).

WOLFHOUND. WOLFHOUND damaged by near miss. Fore part has sunk. After part likely to remain afloat. No. 82 bulkhead holding. I am standing by. (LADY PHILOMENA, 2120A/3 to C. in C. Nore). Your 2120A/3 Endeavour to tow WOLFHOUND to Humber. Tugs have been ordered to meet you. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 2225A/3 to LADY PHILOMENA). Immingham departure Tug SABINE at 2245 to assist WOLFHOUND. (F.O. Humber, 2302/3).

S.S. CITY AUCKLAND. AAAA bombed off Bluff Light. (Cullercoats Radio., T.O.R.2223).

### Mining.

Operation E.H. Scapa departure F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA with MANXMAN, LIGHTNING. (A.C.O.S., 1100IA/3).

Milford Haven. Two mines detonated by FAR, details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1003/3).

1st M.S.F. My 1339B/16/5/41. 1st M.S.F. is now required to have six ships available at 3 weeks notice to sail in lieu of one week's notice. (D.M.S., 1409A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Operation Q.K. (7) — Prepare to carry out operation Q.K. (7) on 4/9 with 3 M.L.s of 51st Flotilla and covering Force from 4th M.T.B. Flotilla. Route. F.O.I.C. Harwich pass to BEEHIVE. (C. in C. Nore, 1532A/3 2301A/3 to BEEHIVE).

Speeds on East Coast. — Instructions re Speed restriction between 21 A and 17 buoy due to acoustic mine. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1620/3 to RIPLEY).

Thames Estuary. — One S.A. mine detonated as follows 1050/3. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1957/3).

S.N. 23 A. — Departure PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK. (N.O.I.C. Port ZA. 2109A/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

U.33 (sunk 12/2/40.) — Diving operations on U.33 should be suspended. (D.A/S.W., 1934A/3).

Miscellaneous.

Harwich. — Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1956A/3).

Casualties & Defects.

P.34. — My 1100A/26/8 defects in P.34. will be completed 14/9. and vessel sailing 0745A/16. Reasons for delay. Firm progressing work as fast as possible. (P.S.O. Barrow, 1405A/3).

HAMBLEDON, M.V. KENTISH HOY. — HAMBLEDON reports being in collision with KENTISH HOY. No damage sustained by HAMBLEDON she is proceeding. KENTISH HOY superficial damage M.L. 102 not involved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1740A/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12. Proposed arrangements. (D. of S.T. 0256A/3 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland). See Lion Copy.

DOMINION MONARCH. Should be prepared for voyage commencing possibly 25/9. She will be embarked to full capacity. (D.S.T., 0257A/3 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

KOSCIASZKO, CHANTILLY. Proposed to use for a voyage commencing from Liverpool probably 22/9. (D.S.T., 0258A/3 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

T.C.15. Your 2013/29/8. Unlikely that shipping for T.C.15 can be provided before Mid-October. Request confirmation that total of 14,000 includes R.A.F. and other service personnel in addition to purely Military requirements. (D.S.T., 0259A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

D.S.11 C.T. 2. Admty 1944A/28. 1718A/2. (1) A/S Escort NEWARK, S.C., CHARLESTON, ST. LAURENT, SAGUENAY , ASSINIBOINE. (2) Request you will sail ships accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 1045A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, ALCHIBA. Drawing 20½' and 23½ ' respectively, both had difficulty in getting up harbour at Archangel. Please arrange that ships for this port in future do not draw more than 22' in fresh water, (Adm. Miles, 1124C/3 to Admty).

W.S. Convoys. In future the Bristol Channel section of W.S. convoys is to be sailed and routed to the Oversay R/V entirely by N.C.S.O. Cardiff. Orders for escort of this portion of convoy should be issued by N.O.I.C. Cardiff. (C. in C. W.A., 1141A/3 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).

W.S.11. Following from REPULSE addressed C. in C. W.A. repeated C. in C. H.F. and Admty., at 0545Z/2 probable U-boats were D/F'ed by me in direction of, and subsequently flashes seen by, FURIOUS, approx. position 052° 23' N., 016° 36' W. At 0645Z/2 in 051° 50' N., 017° 51' W. fire was opened at an F(?W). Shadow signals were subsequentl heard on 590 Kc/s at 0720Z/2. At 1131 A/C homing signals were heard on 1765 Kc/s but it is considered not on this convoy. Subsequently R.D.F. reports were received of unknown A/C up to 1745Z/2 in 051° 16' N., 021° 08' W. 1714N/2. (Ends). (CAIRO, 1215Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Iceland M/V's. — Have 9 Merchant Vessels awaiting escort to U.K. (A.C.I.C., 1456/3 to C. in C. W.A.) See 1212/4.

H.X.144 — Met as arranged. Dense fog first week. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1914A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. — F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1316A/3 and A.M. 2346A/30/8. Every effort is to be made to complete repairs to ROYAL ULSTERMAN in time to embark troops and sail (date). Report to Admty. whether repairs can be completed by this date. (D.O.D. (H) 2241A/3 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

EMPRESS OF CANADA. — Not desired that EMPRESS OF CANADA should proceed to Hvalfiord unless for reasons of endurance. If practicable ship and escort are to proceed Scapa Flow. (Route).
(V.A. 2 2326A/3 to ICARUS, S.O. Force A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

PROTEUS.
TRUSTY.
My 1851A/31 paras. 1 and 2, for 1700A/6 read 1700/7. (Capt. S.3., 0846A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MARON.
To leave patrol 0800/8 for Gibraltar passing south of area H.Z.1 and through (a) 032° 00' N. 035° 00' W. (2) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward route from (a). (S.O.W.P.1040A/3 to Western Patrol).

MARON
CORINTHIAN.
My 1150A/17/8 and my 1040A/3 F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail MARON for patrol on 19/9 as in Admty. 0113A/18/8. CORINTHIAN leaves U.K. 13/9 and not as in Admty. 0131B/29/7. (S.O.W.P. 1050A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HEYTHROP.
Docked to-day 3/9 for defect to stern bush and glands. Estimated date of completion 14/9. (A.S. Gibraltar 1224A/3 to Admty.)

FURIOUS.
Admiralty 1433C/19. From position X pass through position (Y) 040° 00' N. 019° 00' W. (Z) 036° 00' N. 009° 00' W. thence Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304A/3 to FURIOUS).

O.23.
TAKU.
My 1606A/1. Departure Netherlands S/M O23. 'Q' messages affecting her to port of destination have been taken. TAKU delayed 24 hours owing to fuel tank defects. (F.O.C.N.A. 1546A/3 to Admty.)

Convoy protection against F/W aircraft.
Your 2352A/25. Owing to limited endurance of ships forming H.G. - O.G. convoys it is not possible to route them outside the range of Focke-Wulf aircraft. Arrangements have been made for a catapult ship or AUDACITY to accompany each convoy whenever possible and a few C.A.M. ships are being diverted to this run, though they are generally too large for Spanish ports. Hoped these measures will prove an effective counter to shadowing aircraft. Intended that provisions of A.M. 2305B/16/7 para. 3 should still apply, but on occasions it will be necessary for Admty. to intervene when they are in possession of special information which cannot be made available to you. F.O. Force H. has been asked to give you further information personally as regards this. (V. C.N.S. 1548A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspicious.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Suspicious A/C. B.2. Large aircraft carrying bombs flying Bias Bay over sea off Ponta De Agulha Southeren Desertas 27/8 about 1600 G.M.T., no markings. (R.O., Funchal, 1815/3 to Admty.)

French Convoy. French convoy D. passes Messina 5th; point P, A.M./7; arriving Marseilles A.M./8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/3 to S/M 0.24, S/M. 0.21).

0.24. My 2136A/1. Amend time of sailing to 1500/3. (F.O.C.N.A., 2106A/3 to S/M 0.24.)

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. B.D.V's. Your 2027/21/8. JENNETT Freetown, BARCASTLE refitting Lagos, RENNET and PUNNET Takoradi. Latter operating temporary A/T Gate, no Winch or Capstan being available. Unless 2 Vessels proceed independently, not practicable to release all 3 until arrival of relief for Gate Vessel Takoradi. My 0755/20/7, request drawings Winch Houses may be hastened and approval to commence building same may be telegraphed. (C. in C. S.A., 0145N/3 to Admty.)

Refits. Your 1113/26/8. (1) A. Agree that annual refits of destroyers and corvettes should normally take place in U.K. B. Agree that this can be done when 3,000-ton dock at Freetown is available. Until dock is provided not possible to do all 6-monthly dockings at Lagos for destroyers corvettes and Trawlers. BRILLIANT and BOREAS cannot dock Lagos until B extension is fitted. Only other alternative is Capetown. C. is very important. Refitting in U.K. will always provide fear that vessels will be retained from time to time. Pointed out that S/M activity develops rapidly in the area and reinforcements take a long time to move. Increase of 20% is proposed. (2) All refits of trawlers should be possible at Lagos. Refits for some corvettes could be done there as well if required. (C. in C. S.A., 0151N/3 to Admty.)

/WILD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

WILD SWAN.
VIMY.
WIVERN.
BOREAS.

Admty. 1545/2/8. With movements of fast convoys and commitments such as EAGLE and REVENGE, lack of the 4 destroyers detached to Gibraltar is felt and it is difficult to maintain (?all escort) groups as desired. Escort requirements to and from Takoradi and to the south also are heavy. Though requirements elsewhere are appreciated it is requested that WILD SWAN and VIMY may be sent to Freetown the earliest date that situation allows. Concur that WIVERN and BOREAS shall refit in U.K. F.O.C.N.A. 1212/25/8 and 2232/1. (C. in C. S.A. 0159N/3 to Admty.)

LAFONIA.

My 0243/27/8. LAFONIA was originally intended to be used for movements from South Africa to South Georgia of 70 Norwegian personnel intended as crews for whale catchers. As LAFONIA will now be needed in South Africa for fitting, request report whether alternative arrangements can be made for the movement of the Norwegian personnel. (D.S.T. 0300A/3 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown) See 1432/5.

Ex Italian ships.

VITTORIO VENETO, INES CORRADO, AMABILITAS, FORTUNSTELLA, MARISTELLA and VOLUNTAS arrived Buenos Aires 2/9. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1144Z/3 to Admty.)

REVENGE
ORION
collison.

In Convoy W.S.10.X, REVENGE and (? transport) ORION in collision about 2130Z/2. Two bulging compartments between 165 and 183 stations starboard side in REVENGE flooded. Otherwise damage superficial, no leak, ship seaworthy and capable of full speed. Degaussing put out of action temporarily made good. Bow ORION damaged and twisted but collision bulkhead sound and ship capable of 15 knots in moderate (?). W.S.10.X. E.T.A. Capetown p.m./11. This message passed through Woodruff at Lagos. (REVENGE 1155Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

Raider
No. 33
(PENGUIN).

Local Red Cross request transmission following message to Intercroix Rouge Geneva through British Red Cross subject to concurrence Admiralty. -(1) Your 8245. Authorities inform raider known unofficially as PENGUIN officially as No. 33. (2) About 60 officers and men were landed Durban as war prisoners, further information should be sought by Geneva from Admiralty London. (C.G.S. Pretoria 1723/3 to W.O.)

/WIPUNEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

WIPUNEN. Your 0935/4/8. Following is extract from Ambassador Rio De Janeiro telegram to M. of W.T. (Begins) - Master states that WIPUNEN is no longer immobilized and requests authority to proceed Montevideo. U.S. Embassy have received telegram stating Maritime Commission "prefer that ship proceed Montevideo". I propose to authorize departure P.M./4 unless instructed contrary. (Ends). (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1809Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

ATHOS. Have you any news of ATHOS from New York due Rio de Janeiro 26/8. (D.T.D. 1818A/3 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

DUMANA. MAFUTA. SANSU. Have you any news of DUMANA from Durban due Bathurst 23/8, MAFUTA from Freetown due Accra 31/8, SANSU due Bathurst 30/8? No VESCAS received since 14/8. (D.T.D. 1819A/3 to S.O.I. Freetown).

Falklands Defences. Your 06627 Cipher 28/8. In view of your first sentence do not proceed with the instructions contained in War Office 86390 (M.O.4). (T.O.O. 1830/26). (W.O., 1830/3 to M.A. Buenos Aires).

Norwegian Minesweepers. Request permission may be obtained from Portuguese Govt. for four Royal Norwegian Navy minesweepers TRANSVAALIA, NOBLENORA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON to call at Beira for bunkers owing to endurance being 1000 miles only. Ships will sail from Durban for Suez as soon as permission received. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1842B/3 to Admty.)

GORLESTON. E.T.A. R/V 19° N. 00 Z/10/9. (GORLESTON 2111Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

E/Boats passing through Dardenelles. C. in C. Med.'s 1945/1. Full instructions are being sent to Ambassador. You should therefore refrain from any discussion with Turks on subject of E-boats until receipt of these instructions.
(Head of M. 0017A/3, to N.A.Angora.)

Enemy Convoy. Convoy attacked by aircraft 037° 33' N., 016° 00' E., at 0005/3, probably 2 undamaged.
(Capt. S.10, 0423B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

TORBAY TAKU. Ref. 1058 A/2 from F.O.(S) and my 1941 C/2 and my 1700. C/1. In view of operational conditions in Mediterranean it is essential that Type 129 should be available and fully efficient. Gear mentioned in F.O.(S) 1058 A/2 cannot reach Alexandria before early November and TORBAY will be out of action until that time. Removal of directing gear should not delay TAKU more than 24 hours and does not necessitate docking. Request approval of proposal in my 1941 C/2.
(Capt. S.I, 0905C/3 to C. in C Med.)

Benghazi, Barce. Gazala bombed. 2. Western Desert; Night 1-2/9, 7 Wellingtons bombed shipping in Benghazi Harbour, accurate observation of results rendered difficult by searchlights but smoke seen rising from 1 vessel. 1 Wellington also machine gunned 2 M.T. vehicles near Barce. 6 Marylands and 5 F.A.A.Albacores bombed Gazala south landing ground,
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1012/3.)

Enemy Convoy. 3 Merchant Ships 3 Destroyers 36° 50' 18° 15' course 125° 13½ knots at 0905B/3.
(Capt. S.10, 1030B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

UNIQUE. Intend UNIQUE patrol in Southern Tyrrhenean Sea leaving places named p.m. as follows: Malta, 5th, Trapani 7th, Palermo 8th, South of Vulcano 10th Cape Vaticano 11th, Naples a.m./16 direct to Marittimo, arrive Malta a.m./19.
(Capt. S.10, 1046A/3, to Capt.S.I.)

PAPANICOLIS. Set watch on 4205 kc/s. BASILISSA OLGA sailing to your assistance keeping watch on 4205 kc/s call sign W IV. You will use Naval General Call Signs when calling.
(Capt. S.I, 1130C/3 to Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS.)

/Enemy .....

INCOMPLETE. MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941. Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Egypt, and Suez Canal Area. Port Said and Alexandria were attacked by aircraft last night. Some naval casualties were caused at Alexandria.

Flag of C. in C. The Flag of C. in C. Med., has been transferred to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Flag of V.A. 1 B.S. to BARHAM.

America & West Indies.

Raider Search. The U.S. forces abandoned at 1800Q today the search for the enemy cruiser sighted on 28/8.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean Contd.

**Enemy S/M.** 1 submarine P.C. and S. 036° 14' N., 017° 30'E., 145° 12 at 0835. (V.A.Malta, 1245B/3, to OTUS, THUNDERBOLT.)

**Captured M.A.S.** Result of Sea trial of captured M.A.S. 452. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1312B/3, to C. in C. Med.)

**Port Said Raid.** Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) Night 2/3, calm, 7/10 cloud. (b) Shallow dive bombing 300 - 16,000 feet by about 9 enemy aircraft, type unknown, on Port Said 2152 - 2307, one flare, Moon in 2nd quarter (c) H.E. (d) 12 X.B. One U.X.B. on land, several X.B. in water. (e) No service damage, 1 Naval rating slightly injured, considerable civilian damage. (f) Heavy army A/A barrage, 15 fighters up. (g) Balloons flying. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1315C/3.)

**Route Signals, Shipping.** Your 1954/7/7(see Shipping) has been applied to all traffic outbound from Suez but it is considered that in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea routeing signals are redundant. Request approval to inform N.C.S.O's accordingly. (C. in C. Med., 1403C/3, to Admty.)

**Directing gear, TAKU.** Admty. 1712A/2. Investigation reveals 3 sets of training gear for type 129 and 20 tabulated rings received at Alexandria within last week. Remaining items can be made locally. Request my 1700C/1, my 1941/2, my 1219/3 may be cancelled. (Capt. S.I. 1532C/3, to C. in C. Med.)

**Malta Raid.** Night 2/3. 6 Aircraft dropped bombs and incendiaries causing negligible damage and 4 slight civilian casualties. Hurricanes up, no illuminations, no interception.

**4 M/V's attacked, 1 destroyed, 3 hit.** Nine Swordfish attacked convoy (3/9) reported by R/C.. Swordfish (23 miles E. Cape Spartivento.) 1 torpedo hit M/V 8-9 thousand tons, shortly afterwards ship blew up with columns of smoke to 9,000 feet. 1 torpedo hit M/V 9,000 tons amidships. 2 other M/Vs hit by 2 torpedoes. Results not known but behind two were seriously damaged. Attack complete surprise. Wild disorder moment attack started. Drs. firing on their own ships and some almost collided.

.....

/5 Blenheims.....

INCOMPLETE. MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

3 M.T.B.'s patrolled off Ostend last night.

British Air Operations.

Six Wellingtons bombed the docks at Boulogne last night. Small scale attacks were made on docks at Ostend and Dunkirk.

Two Flak ships which with two destroyers were escorting a merchant vessel off Barfleur were set on fire this evening.

Mining.

Operation Q.L.1. Mines were laid last night off Hook of Holland.

Sunderland was closed at 0315, Tyne at 2240 and Blyth at 2315.

Liverpool is to be closed at night, commencing today.

Thames Estuary. M/S Trawlers ETRUSCAN and WAR WING were slightly damaged this morning by the explosion of S.A. mines off Harwich.

Mediterranean.

Air attack on Cotrone. This morning 7 Blenheims attacked shipping and other targets at Cotrone. A merchant ship in harbour was hit and set on fire.

Operations by TETRARCH. TETRARCH reports a possible hit on a merchant ship approaching Benghazi on 19/8. She shadowed an escorted convoy of 5 large schooners and a steamship proceeding close in shore from Tripoli to Benghazi and sank one schooner on the morning of 23/8 and one on the following morning.

Libya and Western Desert. 7 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli from 2000 to 2300 today.

Blenheims last night attacked a tanker and petrol storage barges at Benghazi. Results are not known.

/Egypt.....

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 M/V's attacked, 1 destroyed, 3 hit. (Contd.) | 5 Blenheims out to attack convoy reported 0905 hrs., but after thorough and long search no trace found. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1600/3.) |
| Turkey. | Progress report on conversations. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1607/3.) See Lion Copy. |
| CORDELIA, SZEGED. | German CORDELIA arrived from Piraeus and proceeded to Black Sea with Hungarian SZEGED 3/9. Russians advised. CORDELIA appearance unchanged except hull now grey. (S.O.I., Istanbul 1714C/3, to S.O.I., Med.) |
| SAINT BRIEUX, COETLOGON. (French) | Arrived 2/9. (Barcelona, 1731/3 to M.of W.T.) |
| Air strength. | Chief of Staff No.167 to C.in C. M.E. and Med. (1st S.L. 1741A/3 to C.in C. Med.) See Operations Volume. |
| THUNDERBOLT, OTUS. | At 2100C/3 proceed as follows: THUNDERBOLT operate in Area C in accordance with Memorandum S.O.33. OTUS proceed to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/9 passing through 036° 22' 021° 27' and 180° Gavdo 17 thence direct. (Capt. S.I, 1750C/3, to THUNDERBOLT, OTUS.) |
| VENDETTA, PAPANICOLIS. | VENDETTA leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1900C/3 arrives Port Said 0800/4. Night of 3/4 7th D.F. at sea exercising off Alexandria. Greek S/m PAPANICOLIS in tow escorted by Greek destroyer BASILISSA OLGA from position 000° Rosetta 8 due Alexandria 0500C/4. (Capt. S.I, 1825C/3, to TORBAY.) |
| Enemy Convoy. | For information. Convoy (s) numbers unknown arriving Benghazi 1230/4 passing through 032° 40' 019° 20' from N.E., at about 0700/4. (S.10, 2105B/3, to THUNDERBOLT.) |
| PERSEUS. | Return to Alexandria leave your area P.M./5, arriving Sanctuary 0600C/10 passing Eastward Amorgo Island through Kaso Strait and 032° 10' 029° 14'. (Capt. S.I, 2510C/3, to PERSEUS.) |

/CITY OF .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

CITY OF AUCKLAND. British, 8336 tons, Liverpool for Suez, independently, was bombed off Bluff Point, at southern entrance to Gulf of Suez, at 1023/3 but it is not yet known whether she was damaged. (D.S. 730, 4/9.)

Situation report 137. (1) Canal area. Air raids Port Said night 2/3. No Naval damage. Port open.
(11) URGE (? reports) (a)AQUITANIA damaged with one torpedo hit, and tanker sunk with 2 hits when southbound in convoy off Marittimo on 26th.
(b) DUILIO class liner hit and probably sunk when southbound (? area of) Capri in company with OCEANIA and NEPTUNIA 28/8. RORQUAL laid mines off Skinari on 26th and sank northbound 8000 ton merchant ship with 3 hits in 036° 25'N., 021° 01' E., at 1900/28. RORQUAL's periscope and standard were damaged in collision with second merchant ship in company with one that sank. My 2245/1.
TRIUMPH (? in addition) demolished 120 feet of railway bridge in position 038° 03' N., 014° 34' E., during night 27/28. One army Officer and 7 others missing. Request no mention in press of any of these activities.
(C. in C. Med., 2345C/3, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RANGITIKI C.M.17.

Your 0818/1. No objection to proposed use of RANGITIKI to Middle East.
(D.S.T., 0255A/3, to C. in C.E.I.)

Use of Bandar Shapur.

Reply to C. in C.E.I., 0648/2. (S.N.O.P.G., 0702Z/3.) See Lion Copy.

Teheran.

Situation report.
(M.A. Teheran, 1115/3 to W.O.)

M.L's.

Your 1543/1. Two M.L's from Durban would be very welcome as my resources of suitable craft are slender.
(C. in C.E.I., 1200Z/3, to Admty.)

CASCADE.

My 0618/31. Later information re CASCADE.
Ship was taken up Bombay 19/5 on M.W.T.account.
Was carrying commercial cargo when lost.
Ship carried no Admiralty C.Bs. One Chinese crew drowned when abandoning ship.
(C. in C.E.I., 1204Z/3 to Admty.)

SPETSAI.

Gr. Destroyer SPETSAI leaves Colombo 0430Z/5.
E.T.A. Diamond Harbour 0030Z/9.
(C. in C.E.I., 1228Z/3 to N.O.I.C.Calcutta.)

Troop Movement.

G.H.Q. Middle East requires to move after first week in October 24th Gold Coast Brigade strength 300 British 4896 Africans from Berbera to Takoradi calling at Mombasa en route for details. Propose allocating STRATHMORE and STRATHNAVER.
Do you concur?(S.T.O.Egypt 1230/3, to D. of S.T.)

CERES.

CERES is to leave Trincomalee A.M./5 on Patrol, pass through 1½° Channel and carry out following Programme. Arrive Seychelles P.M./10, fuel leave Seychelles A.M./12 arrive Mombasa A.M./15. CERES will be required for escort duty from vicinity of Mombasa about 19/9.
(C. in C.E.I., 1230Z/3, to CERES.)

Fighter Protection Red Sea.

Your 1333/1. (1) I agree that main problem is protection of shipping N. of Port Sudan.
(2) It looks as if the air threat mentioned in A.M. 1457/17/5 para. 5 may shortly develop and your offer of assistance now is much appreciated.
(3) Would you consider sending FLAMINGO and PARAMATTA to Port Sudan now where they can augment the present A.A. defences of the Port and shipping and be in a position to take over convoy escorts if they have to be started?

(4) I agree

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Fighter Protection. Red Sea. (Contd.)**

(4) I agree generally with views expressed in S.N.O.R.S. 1632/2 which being repeated to you. The provision of adequate fighter protection is the crux of the problem.
(C. in C.E.I., 1252Z/3, to C. in C. Med.)

**Ex-Enemy Ships, Persian Gulf.**

Admty., 2344A/29 and your 1500Z/31.
2. M.W.T. informed by Campbell, Calcutta, that no tugs are available at Karachi to tow prizes to Bombay and only one tug available at Bombay.
3. Request you will make any arrangements necessary to get these prizes to Bombay without delay.
(A.C.N.S.(P), 1627A/3, to C in C.E.I.)

**EFFINGHAM.**

Have you any news of EFFINGHAM from Aden due Vizagapatam 24/8.
(D.T.D. 1821A/3 to S.O.I., Bombay.)
Reply: 0547/4.

### China.

**ROGGEVEEN (Dutch.)**

Have you any news of ROGGEVEEN from Batavia due Palembang 6/8?
(D.T.D.1820A/3 to S.O.I. Singapore.)
Reply: 0855/4.

### America & West Indies.

**Fuelling in U.S.A.**

Your 1231Q/1. Relaxation would probably be granted, but special request on each occasion is still necessary.
(B.A.D.,1013R/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

**DESPATCH DIOMEDE.**

Your 1902A/30 and my 1222Q/2. Relief of DESPATCH by DIOMEDE is necessary to enable damage sustained by former whilst alongside NORDENEY to be made good. DIOMEDE will visit Esquimalt if practicable.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1042Q/3 to Admty.)

/Raider.....

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

Raider 28/8. If U.S. Aircraft Carrier WASP is still in harbour request you will obtain all possible details enemy ship sighted by U.S. aircraft on 28/8. PRINCE DAVID holds to opinion vessel sighted by him on 27/8 was a warship. Chief impression from view fine on quarter was that masts and funnels were bunched amidships, long forecastle and longer quarter deck. Pronounced tumble home.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1052Q/3, to N.O.I.C.Trinidad.)

U.S.Task Groups. Ref. my despatch containing Schedule, TASK Group 2.7, TASK Group 2.5, from position 11.15N., 56.45 W., at 2200 G.C.T./1 proceeding Hampton Roads by way of lat. 20° long. 60° arriving 6/9. EBERLE and BROOKLYN to be released on route and proceed New York to arrive 7th. TASK Group 2.6 to leave Trinidad 6th for Patrol covering positions 20° N., 35° W., to 30° N., 35° W., arriving Bermuda 18th. TASK Group 2.7 continuing patrol arriving Bermuda 9/9.
(ALUSNA, 1053/3, to Admty.)

TOLTEN. Br. Ship TOLTEN due Balboa 30/8 not arrived.
(S.O.I.Jamaica, 1309R/3 to Admty.)

RESOLUTION. Programme. (B.A.R.M. 1536R/3, to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

FORTH. Your 1711Z/2. (Re FORTH to visit Halifax to collect stores.) Approved.
(D.O.D.(H) 1639A/3 to FORTH.)

Reported Enemy Cruiser 28/8. Your 1052Q/3. U.S.Adm. Hewitt informs me that pilot's description of vessel sighted is identical with that quoted in your signal except tumble home not mentioned. He says pilots are young and inexperienced and having orders to remain unseen did not approach near enough to say anything more definite although one of them thought he recognized silhouette of HIPPER.
(N.O.I.C.Trinidad, 1650Q/3 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

BETHORE TOLTEN. Have you any news of BETHORE from Balboa due Cruz Grande 16/8 and TOLTEN from Hobart due Panama 29/8.
(D.T.D.1822A/3, to S.O.I.Jamaica.)

Task Forces. Movements. (D.O.D.F., 2207A/3 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.) See Lion Copy.

/LEOPOLD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

LEOPOLD ILE DE RE (French.) — N.S.H.Q., 2148Z/2 being passed to Admiralty and S.O.(I) Jamaica. Are these voyages approved?
(C. in C.A.W.I., 2212Q/3 to Admty.)

Australia.

TOKAI MARU. NANA MARU. — Your 1239R/29. Noon positions (?TOKAI MARU) 26/8, 00Z° S., 149° W., (approx.) 29/8. 003° N., 165° W. NANA MARU, 23/8, (? 025°) S., 125° W., 29/8, 008° S., 147° W.
(A.C.N.B., 1336Z/3 to S.O.I., Kingston, J.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941. Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FORT RICHEPANSE. Repairs completed E.T.A., P, 2000 G.M.T. At 1130 G.M.T. sighted a S/M 052° 38' N., 022° 20'W. (FORT RICHEPANSE 1400 G.M.T./3, to Admty., C.in C. Plymouth.) (C.in C. W.A., 1732A/3 to GARLAND, PIORUN.)

1819. Following has been read. SSSS 52.50 N., 21.05 W., FORT RICHEPANSE, submarine sighted. (Lands End, 1819B/3.) (Port Patrick Radio, 1920/3.) (C.in C. W.A., 1932A/3 to PIORUN, GARLAND.)
Following has been read. SSSS 52.05 N., 21.05 W.
FORT RICHEPANSE corrected position sighted submarine.
(Liverpool W/T, 1832/3.) (Port Patrick Radio, 1932/3.)
My 1932A/3. FORT RICHEPANSE amended position 52° 05' N., 21° 05' W., at 1819/3 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A., 2002A/3 to PIORUN, GARLAND.)
Following received via Lands End radio.
Intercept 1849 G.M.T. S.S.S.S. De FORT RICHEPANSE (Jammed). Signal much weaker and interference heavy.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1956/3, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0251. Submerged U/B reported in 69° 59' N., 35° 27' E., at 0251/3.
(D.D.I.C. 0237A/3 to H.Q.C.C. Force A, C.S.1, F.O.S., ELECTRA, IMPULSIVE.
(TRIDENT, 0251C/3, to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)
My 0251C/3. S/M sighted on surface course 140° speed 12½, dived in 069° 54' N., 035° 45' E.
(TRIDENT, 0330C/3, to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)
TRIDENT reports (as 0330C/3). Admty., pass to ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0851C/3, to ELECTRA.)

0545Z/2. D/F by REPULSE. (CAIRO, 1215Z/3.) See W.S.11, Shipping and Convoys.

1135 G.M.T. By D/F at 1135 G.M.T., enemy U-Boat in 47° - 48° N., 7° - 8°W., probably homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1336A/3 to TUNA.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/3.)

1511 G.M.T. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1511 G.M.T. By D/F at 1511 G.M.T. an enemy U/Boat in 52° - 53° N., 17° - 18° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1716A/3.)

1820. Am over enemy submarine in position OPAF 1542. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 240° speed 10 knots.
(A/C S/ - Squadron 1820/3 to Leighton Buzzard T.O.R. 1836/3.) Position indecipherable.

Submarines Attacked.

02510/3. By TRIDENT in 69° 59' N., 34° 25' E.
Chased 30 minutes before U boat dived.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1142C/3.) See Operations.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. of the U.S.A. Atlantic Fleet has been directed to destroy Surface Raiders attacking or appearing to threaten shipping in the sea-lanes between North America and Iceland.

5 large Transports were observed passing Helsingborg going Northward at 1530 yesterday, and one German Destroyer at 1030 today.

The ADMIRAL SCHEER was seen this morning to have left Kiel and at 1320 was photographed in the northern entrance of the Great Belt steering W.N.W. and escorted by 3 WOLF-class Destroyers and 1 Depot Ship.

The re-fitting programme of the 1st M.L.Squadron is to be accelerated in order to re-form the Squadron as soon as possible.

The S/M O.14 is to sail tomorrow to patrol off Hardanger Fiord to attack enemy warships or northbound laden M/V's.

The Destroyer RIPLEY ran ashore at 0641 today under Flamborough Head and sustained extensive damage. She was refloated and at 1929 was lying in Bridlington Bay with Tugs in attendance.

British Air Activity.

56 A/C, including 3 Stirlings, attacked SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest last night. The ships were covered by a smoke screen, but bursts were seen across Nos. 1 and 2 Docks and a large fire was started North of the Commercial Port.

/6 Blenheim.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. - Contd.

6 Blenheim A/C attacked an oil tanker at Cherbourg, where hits on the Docks were seen; and the Docks at Rotterdam were also bombed.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Myggenaes Light and Radio Beacon, bombed and damaged on 24/8, is now again available on request, though its regular operation has been discontinued

Mining.

The Oropesa search of the channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield could not be completely carried out owing to fog.

One Magnetic Mine was detonated yesterday in the Thames Estuary.

Harwich was re-opened at 1032 today but closed again at 1948 owing to fog; and at 2237 the ports of Tees and Hartlepool were reported closed owing to suspected minelaying.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 145 — Convoy H.X. 145, on the successful arrival of which Adm. B.S. Thesiger has been congratulated, was one of the largest which has crossed the Atlantic - 83 ships, of which 64 were British and 19 allied. Included were 35 tankers.

/Sea.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Sea fuelling. — C. in C. W.A. is to take general charge of trials for fuelling at sea to be carried out with EMPIRE GARDEN.

Russian Convoy. — Plans for another Russian convoy are outlined in Admty. 2311, 2312 and 2314/4.

Mediterranean.

Malta, A/C operations. — 5 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on land last night causing negligible damage. 2 soldiers were slightly wounded.

When 20 Macchi 200's approached Malta this morning 6 were shot down and 3 others badly damaged.

In the afternoon 8 Hurricanes encountered 12 Macchis covering rescue operations off the Sicilian Coast, and shot down 3 certain and 1 probable, with 2 more damaged, for the loss of 2 Hurricanes.

5 Blenheims which attacked ships taking refuge in Cotrone hit an M/V of 8000 tons and possibly 2 others.

Libya & Western Desert. — One M/V 8-10,000 tons was bombed and hit last night 3 cables E.N.E. of Tripoli Harbour, but the result was not observed.

Mines are suspected to have been dropped off Tobruk in the raid on the night of 2-3/9.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy Destroyer claimed sunk. | Swordfish A/C torpedoed an enemy destroyer 2 miles outside Tripoli Harbour last night and caused a large explosion. The vessel is claimed destroyed. An M/V of 8-10,000 tons was also attacked outside the harbour and received 1 bomb hit, but results were unobserved. |
| Egypt and Suez Canal | Enemy aircraft estimated between 12 and 28 attacked the Canal Area last night. Abu Sueir aerodrome was the main objective, 50 bombs and a land mine being dropped there besides incendiaries but no casualties were caused. |
| | FLAMINGO was ordered to Suez today to be at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal. C. in C. Med. suggests she be employed for the present at Suez or Ataqa. |
| Submarines. | OTUS reported today that she had attacked a southbound convoy of 13 M/V's in 35.40 N., 18.07 E. at 1430/3 and had sunk a RAMB class ship with 2 hits.<br>OTUS was today ordered to establish a patrol off Sapienza Island. |

East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Axis Ships. | Progress in the sailing or towing to Karachi of Axis ships captured in the Persian Gulf is contained in C. in C. East Indies 0602Z/4. |
| Djibuti. | Minister of State has agreed to C. in C's proposal to fire on dhows in Obok area in retaliation for Vichy shore batteries firing on our patrols on 2/9. |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

| | |
|---|---|
| Japanese Shipping. | Nippon Yusen Kaisha state that all their further sailings are postponed indefinitely. A substantial part of the Japanese Merchant Fleet now appears to be collected in Japanese ports. |
| Gulf of Siam. | C. in C. Far East was informed today that Admty. consider the establishment of a 20-mile prohibited zone undesirable in view of our general policy of maintaining the freedom of the sea and air and the fact that at present freedom of air reconnaissance over the Gulf of Siam is of greater advantage to ourselves than the Japanese. |

America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Trinidad | It has been decided to base 2 corvettes for A/S duties at Trinidad. |
| Shipping, Caribbean. | Diversions ordered on 28/8 when an American A/C reported a possible HIPPER class cruiser were cancelled today and normal routeing resumed. |
| U.S. Forces | Directions to C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, in regard to the use of his forces against raiders are quoted in Admty. 1934A/4. |
| "R" Report. | PORT ADELAIDE reports on arrival Balboa that at 1320Z/4 she heard a radio distress call from a vessel being attacked by a surface raider in the Pacific estimated some 300 miles from Balboa, direction unknown. |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.9.1941
Thursday.

## SITUATION REPORT

### U-Boat Campaign.

FORT RICHEPANSE — PIORUN rescued 26 survivors from FORT RICHEPANSE torpedoed at 1830Z/3 in 52.34 N., 20.23 W., but there are 37 missing. Thick fog prevailed at the time of rescue.

U.S.S. GREER attacked. — Iceland W/T intercepted a message at 0921 today from the U.S.S. GREER reporting a U-boat submerged in 62.48 N., 27.30 W. Later the American Embassy informed Admty. that GREER, on a mail trip to Hvalfiord, was attacked by a submarine which fired 3 torpedoes in approx. 62.45 N., 27.30 W. about 170 miles S.W. of Reykjavik. Then GREER counter attacked on 2 occasions with depth charges, result unknown.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

AGAMEMNON. 1. Arrangements can be made to take AGAMEMNON in hand in U.S.A. now.
2. Request you will report date on which she can be ready to sail.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1320A/4 to R.A.M.)

Destroyers. Hastening refitting. Fleet destroyers are an urgent requirement.
2. Any further steps that you can take to accelerate the completion of those refitting or repairing will be most welcome (Controller, 1343A/4

KENYA, NIGERIA, SHEFFIELD, EURYALUS, HERMIONE. Armament. It is intended to fit six Oerlikon guns in each. HERMIONE is to be prepared at Gibraltar by 15/9, mountings for the ship being sent subsequently. Mountings are to be fitted by 15/9 in ships in U.K. (D.G.D., 1436A/4).

WINHA (Finnish, 333l tons) Prize. Arrival WINHA as prize in Tow MARAUDER. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1714A/4).

LOBELIA. Allocated to 4th Escort Group. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1732/4).

1st M.L. Squadron. 1. With SOUTHERN PRINCE and ADVENTURE out of action, adherence to the First M.L. Squadron refitting programme reduces the strength of the Squadron to two ships until the end of October.
2. The employment of two ships only in the Faeroes Iceland (C) area is not economical.
3. Therefore decided to accelerate the refitting programme in order to get the Squadron together again at the earliest possible date.
4. AGAMEMNON can be taken in hand in the U.S.A. now and PORT QUEBEC can be taken inhand at Southampton about mid-October.
5. This will leave one large minelayer to carry on with the deep fields off the Butt of Lewis, and the two Fast Minelayers for laying without escort off the East Coast when not required for offensive operations. (D.D.O.D. M., 1931A/4).

U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Direction to C. in C. re use of his forces. (V.C.N.S., 1934A/4 to C. in C. H.F. etc).
See Operations Volume. See also V.C.N.S. 1423/6.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with Russia.

**Archangel. Proposed British W/T station.**

To overcome time lag in signals amending times of arrival of convoys, Soviet Naval Authorities asked that we should establish our own W/T at Archangel for direct communications with London. I have suggested that it might be preferable to work direct from U.K. to Archangel Soviet W/T Stations. They have agreed to this in principle on either long or short wave but they would require three British Operators to work with them. Request your views and, if agreed, your proposals for initiating communications after the arrival of Howard. (Ad. Miles 1304C/4).

### Movements.

**INDOMITABLE.**

Your 1716A/2. As there is no suitable berthing accommodation suggest escort arrive Lightning Knoll Buoy 1300A/7. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1010A/4).
My 1716A/2. Request you arrange time of R/V at Barrow. (C. in C. W.A., 1124A/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Arrived CAIRO, BLANKNEY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1235A/4).

**0.23**

After passing position (D) 43° N., 10° W. at 0200A /6 proceed through following positions to R/V on 9/9 with escort near Trevose Head for onward passage to Dundee as ordered by Capt. (S) 3 and Capt. (S) 9.
(B) S.B.R. will be arranged in area X forthwith until further notice. T.B.R. as follows.
(F.O.S., 1554A/4 to 0.23).

**SEAWOLF.**

KINGSTON TOPAZ and LORD WAKEFIELD will R/V with you in 050° 31' N., 0° 41' W. at 0600A/5.
Movements affecting you HAMBLEDON E.T.A. Nab Tower 0600A from East. (Capt. S.5. 1603A/4 to SEAWOLF).

**SHEFFIELD.**

Scapa arrival SHEFFIELD. (A.C.O.S., 1753A/4).

**PORT QUEBEC.**

Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1831A/4).

/TRUSTY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

TRUSTY, TUNA.

(1) Intend to sail TRUSTY escorted by BREDA at 0900A/6 for 285° Bishop Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 2200 A/7.
(2) Thence BREDA to R/V with TUNA in 250° Trevose Head 10 miles at 0630A/8 and escort her to Clyde.
(3) Thence TRUSTY dived by day to 046° N., 9° W., thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion to 043° N., 010° 40' W. E.T.A. 1700A/10.
(Capt. S.3. 1831A/4).

TUNA.

TUNA leaves patrol after dark 5th proceeding as follows to R/V with BREDA in 250°. Trevose Head 10 miles at 0630A/8 Sept.
3. S.B.R. in force in area X. T.B.R. as follows.
(Capt. S.3. 2225A/4 to TUNA.)

Operations.

S/M Patrol off Hardanger.

O.14 is to be sailed for a short patrol as ready on 5/9 for patrol near 59° 27' N., 04° 55' E. Object to attack enemy cruisers and above or Northbound laden merchant vessels. (F.O.S., 1043A/4 to S.9).

Operation.

Your 1220/3 received partially corrupt. Any information concerning lights on the coast, shipping South of Narvik and enemy air searches will be passed to you immediately when ascertained. Cancel my 0159A/4. (V.A.2 1108A/4 to C.S.1).

Off Dunkirk.

Weather permitting two M.L.'s leave Dover at 2200 to operate in vicinity of outer Ruytingen returning at 0400/4. (V.A. Dover, 1559A/3).

Straits of Dover.

My 1538. Add three M.T.Bs leave Dover at 2145 to patrol vicinity South Varne Buoy returning at daylight. (V.A. Dover 1822A/4).

Operation.

C.S.1's 1220/3/9/41 paras. (i) and (ii). No information available. Para (iii) no information other to that contained in Admiralty 1619A/2/9 not to F.O.S. (A.C.N.S. H., 1847A/4 to V.A.2).

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Dervish". My position at 0001/5 077° 25' N., 032° 20' E. Shadowers lost in fog at 1400 when Force L in Company. Shadowing tomorrow likely unless weather remains thick. Hope to fly off 0600/7. Cannot afford to delay if sighted again. Will reception be ready, otherwise may have to send Force L into White Sea. Cannot co-operate with Force A as arranged. (C.S.1. 2116/4 to V.A.2).

Operation "Gauntlet". Your 2326A/3. E.T.A. EMPRESS OF CANADA and escort position 2 (two) (?1800) A September 6th. (S.O. Force A., 2251/4 to V.A.2).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. P.R.U. of Hangesund, Stavanger, and Kristiansand South in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/4).
My 1130/4. Add P.R.U. of Aalborg,
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1248/4).
"Fate V" in operation until 2130/4.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/4).
My 1111/3. Confirmed SKR00 is required today.
(A.C.O.S. 1540A/4 to 18 Group).

U.S.A. A/C Your 0/1071 cipher/26/8 War Office. Please confirm that U.S. Aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British Pyrotechnic Recognition cartridges and pistols. (D.S.D. 1747 A/4 to G.O.C. Iceland).

818 Squadron training. Admiralty 2005/9 th July. Request programme of Training in army co-operation for 818 Squadron may be forwarded and that I may be informed of probable date of completion.
(V.A.N.S., 1814A/4 to V.A. C.T.C.).

R/C requested. Request, if practicable, air R/C may be carried out of Norwegian coast between Hammerfest and Tana Fiord during night 5/6 to ascertain if lights on the coast and in the leads are burning.
(V.A. 2 1901A/4 to Admty).
Your 1901A/4. It is most improbable that this can be arranged. (V.C.N.S., 2200A/4 to V.A.2)

Escort delayed. My 0126/3. Fighter Escort delayed owing to Weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0408/4 to C.S.10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Myggenaes Beacon. (Bombed 24/8).**

My 1016A/28 Aug., C. in C. H.F. 1426A/1 Sept. Myggenaes light and Radio beacon now available on request. Regular operation beacon discontinued. Cancel my 1205A/26. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1041A/4).

**EAST COAST attacked on 29/7.**

(Trawler) Reports when 15 miles South of Fastnet at 1730 B.S.T. 29th attacked by an enemy plane thought to be DC 215. Ship machine gunned and bombed. No damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1232/4).

**WOLFHOUND (Bombed 3/9).**

Arrivals WOLFHOUND in tow of GALLEONS REACH and SABINE. Tug YORKSHIREMAN and LADY PHILOMENA in attendance at 1435. (F.O. Humber 1509A/4).

**ACTINIA (Dutch 352 tons).**

Following from R.N.O. Penzance. .S.S MARENA reports that, in 12 miles N.W. of Smalls with M/V ACTINIA 1½ miles astern at 2300/3, an enemy plane was observed passing overhead and shortly afterwards 2 explosions were heard in the estimated position of the ACTINIA. ACTINIA has not been sighted by MARENA since explosions were heard. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1615/4).

### Mining.

**Harwich.**

My 1956/3. Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1032A/4).

**Operation Q.K.7**

My 1532A/3. General instructions. (C. in C. Nore, 1126A/4). See Operations Volume.

**Operation E.H.**

My position 1130A 061° 07' N., 0° 45' W. MANXMAN not met. Am remaining in vicinity. (C.S.10 1146A/4 to V.A.2).
Report your P.C. and S. using 1570 K/cs, provided you can get through on this wave at once. (V.A. 2 1523/4 to MANXMAN).
My 1524/4. Add KENYA, MANXMAN, LIGHTNING 060° 10' N., 002° 50' W. bound for Scapa. (A.C.O.S., 1742A/4).

**Cropesa Search of Nymph Bank Channel.**

Admty. 1654/1. Royal Netherlands Navy Minesweepers have returned having only been able to sweep 10 miles to westward position 051° 51' N., 006° 50' W., owing to continuous fog. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1575/4).

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Thames Estuary. One magnetic mine detonated at 1111/3. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1959/4).

Tees. Hartlepool. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 2237/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Forces in the Sound. Five large transports going North observed passing Helsingborg at 1530/3. One German destroyer observed same place moving North quickly at 1030/4. (British Consul, Goteborg 1200/4).

German Main Units. Photographic R/C to-day shows: ADMIRAL SCHEER has left Kiel. TIRPITZ alongside quay at entrance to inner dock basin. HIPPER and LUTZOW still in dock. Both Battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN still in usual docks at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1803A/4).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Photographs taken at 1320/4 show ADMIRAL SCHEER escorted by 3 Wolf class Destroyers and 1 Depot Ship in position 55° 50' N., 10° 50' E., course W.N.W. (D.D.I.C., 1920A/4 to V.A. 2 F.O.S.)

Technical.

Fuelling at Sea. C. in C. W.A. is requested to take general charge of the trials for fuelling at sea to be carried out with EMPIRE GARDEN. It is desired to release EMPIRE GARDEN as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. T., 1434A/4).

Miscellaneous.

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1948A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

OLVINA (A/S Trawler) ashore.

Intend to sail 0900 rescue tug RESOLVE to assist OLVINA ashore off St. Albans Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0615A/4).

RIPLEY grounded.

Following received by N.O.I.C. Humber from RIPLEY As far as can be ascertained ship is ashore on north side Flamborough Head. Visibility nil. Bows smashed, and holed boiler room. Internal water controlled. No casualties. Tug is being sent from Humber. (C. in C. Nore, 0641/4).
Immingham departure Tug SCOTSMAN at 0715 to assist RIPLEY. (F.O. Humber 0724A/4).
Casualty Flamboro badly damaged. Grounded under steep cliff doing 20 knots just after high water this morning. Vessel high and dry. Badly damaged forward by contact with cliff. Mid-ships supported by rocks. Am laying out anchor at stern with local assistance. Weather foggy but hope that tugs will arrive to endeavour refloat tonight tide 1700. 100 men sent ashore retaining 40 as working party. Military arranging protection from cliff. (Chief Salvage Officer, Flamborough 1300/4).
Refloated 1600. Proceeded Bridlington. Ship making water. Require pumps before ship safe to proceed Humber. (Chief Salvage Officer, 1620A/4).
RIPLEY reloated and now lying in Bridlington Bay with 2 Tugs in attendance, making water, extra pumps are being sent by road. Extensive damage to bows, bottom and shafts and A brackets. Salvage Officer considers necessary dock as soon as possible. She will thereforebe towed to Grimsby to-morrow and docked for further examination (F.O.I.C. Humber 1929/4).

Raft.

Man on raft alive 59° 17' N., (? longitude). (A/C LG 7 L. 1251/4 to 15 Group H.Q.)
My 1250. Raft empty.
(A/C LG7 L. 1305/4 to 15 Group H.Q.)

BOTNE (Norwegian, 991 tons).

VIMEIRA has crew of BOTNE in collision with BRITISH HOPE in about 50° 50' N., 4° 49' W. at 0100/3. BOTNE may be derelict and danger to navigation. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1546/4 and 1632/4).

AMBUSCADE.

Bad defect has developed again in both condensers. Am returning to Clyde. (AMBUSCADE 1802A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.S.4. Request I may be informed whether you consider your estimated position of O.S. 4 at 2000A/3 reasonably accurate. (C. in C. W.A., 0005A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0005A/4. My estimated position for O.S.4 is based on GORLESTON's 1759A/1.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C. 40. Congratulations on again bringing in safely ships of your convoy S.C. 40. (C. in C. W.A., 0955/4 to Cdre. C.G. Illingworth).

H.G.71 Congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.G.71.
(C. in C. W.A., 1048/4, to Cdre. G.N. White RN.R.)

H.X. 145. Congratulations on bringing home successfully your large convoy H.X. 145. (C. in C. W.A., 1119A/4 to Adm. B.S. Thesiger).
One of the largest convoys to have crossed Atlantic 83 ships, of which 64 British and 19 Allied. 35 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S., 730, 4/9).

Ships from Iceland. Your 1456/3. Sail these ships with Destroyer Escort to join S.C. 41. (C. in C. W.A., 1212A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

Fuelling Trials. C. in C. W.A. is requested to take general charge of the trials for fuelling at sea to be carried out with EMPIRE GARDEN. It is desired to release EMPIRE GARDEN as soon as possible.
(D.T.S.D. 1434A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.G. Convoys. Your 0939A/3. Now that there is no meet with local escorts it is desired that H.G. convoys should proceed at best speed and should not be delayed. Suggested that:- (A) You should signal to C. in C. W.A. repeated Admty and Escort, time and position that vessel from Western Patrol intends to join H.G. convoy, obtaining your information from nightly situation reports.
(B) Should the vessel fail to join after 3 hours search she should signal the fact to same addressees giving her position.
(C) C. in C. W.A. will then consider instructing the escort to break W/T silence to indicate the P.C. and S. of convoy. (D.T.D., 1744A/4 to S.O.W.P.)

W.S.11 List, numbers, and destinations. (D.O.D. F., 1801A/4
See Lion Copy.

/Russian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

Russian Convoy.

LORCA at Leith, BLAIRNEVIS at South Shields and ATLANTIC at Sunderland are required to arrive Hvaalfiord by (date). They should join Coastal Convoy in time to sail in ON(F) 15 at latest. If necessary their lack of speed for normal ON (F) Convoy must be accepted. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2311A/4 to N.C.S.O.'s Loch Ewe etc).
Your 1631C/1. Intended to sail a convoy consisting of CAPIRA, NORD KING, D'ANVERS, ELNA II, LORCA, BLAIRNEVIS, ATLANTIC and possibly three other ships leaving Hvaalfiord about (date) (A.C.N.S. (T) 2312A/4 to Adm. Miles).
Following ships are loading in New York for North Russia and are expected to sail for Halifax on dates shown:- CAPIRA 31/8, NORTH KING 5/9, VILLE D'ANVERS 6/9. Ships are to be sailed for Hvaalfiord in appropriate H.X. and S.C. Convoys to arrive Iceland as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2314A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941. Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

MANCHESTER, FIREDRAKE. Request you will report your proposals for passage of MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE to Philadelphia and Boston respectively so that arrangements may be made for an oiler if necessary. Neutral ports should be avoided. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0024A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0024A/4. Following proposed for MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE. (2) Expected date of sailing 10/9. (3) (Route). (4) If MANCHESTER can oil FIREDRAKE after passing 40° W., ships will proceed to approx. 38° N., 60° W., and thence independently to refitting port.
(5) If oiling is not possible both ships will proceed to Bermuda. (F.O.C.N.A., 1704A/4 to Admty).

BRITISH FREEDOM. My 1828A/1. Correction to route. (F.O.C.N.A., 0558A/4 to JONQUIL, SPIREA). See 2200/4.

Situation. Report No. 3 at 2000A/4 all positions North and west (i) CLYDE patrol between 40° and 34° N., 23° and 31° W. (ii) CARINA patrol H.Z.1. (iii) MARON patrol H.X.3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1406A/4 to N.A. Stn).

PROTEUS. Passes Bishop Rock 2200A/4 routed submerged by day to 046° N., 009° W., thence probably on the surface to pass through 043° N., 010° 40' W., at about 1700A/7 thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (F.O.S., 1608A/4 to O.23, TAKU).

Cape Verde Defences. Your 1915B/29/7 and my 1801/31/7. The two guns at Ponta Do Ribeiro Julian have carried out test firing. A 3rd gun is being mounted at Ponta Do Morro Branco. These three guns are 15 Cm. Schneider. 200 Troops are now stationed at Gato, St. Vincent C.V. Most troops at St. Jago Island have been sent to Sal Island. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1640/4, to Admty).

DURHAM. Your 1940A/28/8/41. Suggested repairs. Time required about 3 to 4 weeks. Request decision whether work is to be put in hand. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1716A/4 to Admty) Reply: 1342/5.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic. - Contd.

**Enemy Ships.** Following is an extract from a Fairmiss Telegram:- Addressed: D. of S.T. Arrivals. No. 14 LE VIOLENT, French, PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, French, NO. 2 COURDASNES, French, JEANNE DENISE, French, TRIANTHA, German. (Bilbao, T.H.I., 1824/4).

**French, Shipping.** Gibraltar 4/9 0815 unidentified French armed Trawler, French ships PONTET, CANET, light, PARAME, MEN GWEN laden westbound. 1613 French armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE French ships CARIMARE, THISBE, laden, latter deck cargo, eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1855A/4 to Admty etc).

**BRITISH FREEDOM. JONQUIL.** Your 0930A/4 acknowledged. BRITISH FREEDOM not met. My P.C. and S. at 2200A/4, 027° 24' N., 022° 43' W., 044° 13.5 knots. Returning along BRITISH FREEDOM's track to Gibraltar. (JONQUIL, 2200A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

### South Atlantic.

**Norwegian Minesweepers.** Ref. S.N.O. Simonstown's 1842B/3. Please request Ambassador approach Portuguese Authorities to obtain necessary permission for vessels concerned to call at Beira for bunkers. (Head of M. 1233A/4 to N.A. Lisbon).

**Convoy C.F.2.** Arrival 4/9 1100 G.M.T. C.F.2 Convoy. (N.C.S.O. Lagos 1300Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

**ECHODALE Grounded.** R.F.A. regulations, Art. 126. R.F.A. ECHODALE grounded Freetown harbour between 0916 and 1045, 17/8, no apparent damage, report follows. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 1531N/4 to Admty).

**W.S.11.** List and details. (D.O.D. (F) 1801A/4 to Cs. in C. S.A. and E.I.) See Lion Copy.

/EDINBURGH.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

EDINBURGH. After consultation with C.S. 18, EDINBURGH is at 24 hours notice for sea until 2359/7 and thereafter at 12 hours notice until completion of boiler defects on 9/9.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1750B/4 to Admty).

DUMANA, MAFUTA, SANSU. Your 1819A/3/9. DUMANA arrived Bathurst 26/8. MAFUTA arrived Accra 31/8, sailed 2/9 and arrived Freetown 3/9. Sailed from Freetown 1600/4/9 for Monrovia and Takoradi. Attention of R.O. Bathurst and R.O. Accra is being drawn to lack of Vescas. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1846N/4 to Admty).

156 M.S. Group. Your 1534B/2. Request you will report detailed movements of M/S Group 156 since arrival at Freetown and where fevers were contracted.
(D.M.S. 1905A/4 to F.O.I.C.Simonstown).

S.L.86 Departure 0530 VANSITTART, ASTER, BURDOCK, CROCUS, VERVAIN with convoy S.L. 86. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1941N/4 to Admty).

Norwegian Minesweepers. My 1842/3. Details of 4 Norwegian L.L. whale catchers NOBLE NORA, TRANS VAALIA, EGELAND, JOHN WILLIAMSON.
Request you arrange onward routeing instructions to be given accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1945B/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

Troop Transport. S.T.O. Egypt's 1230/3. Ships proposed are too large to enter Takoradi owing to difficulties in handling. Largest ship dealt with so far has been PALERNA DEL PACIFICO and the authorities dealt with her reluctantly. (C. in C. S.A., 2015N/4. to D.S.T.)

WIPUNEN. My 1809/3 Rio De Janeiro reports Finnish WIPUNEN sailed for Montevideo 1830 G.M.T./4 on approved voyage, speed 6 knots. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2046Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

GORLESTON. E.T.A. R/V 19° N., 00 Z/10/9. (GORLESTON, 2111Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean.

**Abu Sueir Raid.** Night 3/4. About 12 unidentified enemy A/C low and high level bombing attacks on Abu Sueir 102 M.U. about 50 bombs and 1 land mine dropped. No casualties. 3 aircraft approached Cairo 1 of them dropping 2 bombs at Abbaika. Slight damage to 1 building, civilian casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1038/4)(See also 1305/4).

**Derna, Bardia bombed.** Night 2/3. Of 35 Wellingtons despatched to bomb Derna only 9 located target owing to bad weather. 24 Wellingtons bombed Bardia and Gazala landing grounds. 5 F.A.A. Albacores bombed supply dumps near Gambut. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1101/4).

**OTUS.** Proceed to establish patrol (corrupt group) 293° Sapienza Is. light 64. (Capt. S.1. 1101C/4 to OTUS).

**Tobruk, mines.** Suspected Mines dropped night 2/3. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587/40 para. 3 (a) (b) (c) (d) Nil. Para. (4) combined high level and bombing mine laying attack - 15 aircraft, flares were used. Moon nearly full. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1134C/4 to Admty).

**FLAMINGO, PARRAMATTA.** Your 1252Z/3. Para 3. FLAMINGO is proceeding to Suez to arrive p.m./4 and will be at the disposal of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 4th. I think she will be better employed for the moment at Suez or Ataqa. PARRAMATTA is at present boiler cleaning but will be sailed from Alexandria p.m./7 and can go Port Sudan unless situation then shows other disposition desirable. (C. in C. Med., 1214C/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

**OSIRIS.** Leaves position 035° 51' 015° 15' about 2200C/5 through 033° 43' 020° 00' to spend day 3/9 off Apollonia thence as ordered by your. (Capt. S.10 1215B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

**Submarines.** Admty. 1028A/1 and 1948A/1. Importance of operations in Eastern Med. (C. in C. Med., 1218C/4 to Admty) See Operations.

/Abu Sueir.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Abu Sueir Raid. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) Night 3/4 calm clear. (b) High level attack 5000/13000 feet by about 18 enemy A/C in 2 waves, main objective Abu Sueir Aerodrome. No flares, bright moon (c) H/E and incendiary (d) About 50 H.E. including about 5 Moascar and F.C. One land mine, about 250 incendiaries (e) Slight R.A.F. and military damage No service casualties (f) A.A. barrage 14 fighters up (g) Balloons flying. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1305C/4 to Admty.etc).

Italian Fleet, Messina. Photographs of Messina 3/9 show 3 8 inch cruisers and 1 6 inch, 2 destroyers, 3 submarines and 2 torpedo boats. Cruisers appear to be GORIZIA, TRENTO, CONDOTTIERI and BOLZANO. Latter suggests damage to starboard side, several lighters and small craft alongside, quarter deck suggests discolouration possibly oil fuel, slight list to port and the only cruiser without awnings spread. (V.A. Malta, 1310B/4 to Admty).

DERWENTDALE. My 1802/12/8 and your 1309/21/8 DERWENTDALE is required in Mediterranean and should bring out as many M.L.C's as possible. Fast landing craft carrier is also required as soon as one can be spared. (C. in C. Med., 1344/4 to Admty).

Visit of Adm. Dreyer. Admty M. 0049A/2. I am in complete agreement with your signal and welcome advent of Adm. Dreyer. Present state of affairs. (C. in C. Med., 1640/4 to Admty).

Malta Raids. Night 3/4. 5 aircraft dropped bombs on land causing negligible damage. Two soldiers lightly wounded. Hurricanes up, one shore illumination, no interceptions.
Day 4/9. 20 Macci 200's approached 0843 hours. 18 Hurricanes up engaged enemy out to sea. 6 enemy fighters shot down into sea 3 others badly damaged. 4 parachutes seen but no survivors yet recovered. 1 low flying Macchi 200 engaged by 3 Bofors positions at Kalafrana claiming hits. This plane flew towards Hal Far and was reported already in difficulties and again engaged by 3 sights, two hits claimed. Plane last seen losing height over cliffs. In afternoon 8 Hurricanes intercepted 12 Macchis covering rescue operations off Sicilian Coast. Leader states engagement the hottest he has been in. 3 enemy shot down into sea 1 probable crashed and 2 badly damaged. 2 of our fighters missing. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/4).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy Destroyer Sunk ? M/V hit. | Night 3/4. 3 Swordfish despatched to sink damaged Tanker outside Tripoli Harbour, Tanker not located, 1 Torpedo released at Destroyer 2 miles outside harbour. Large explosion with smoke and water rising to 300 feet. Claimed destroyed. M/V 8 - 10,000 tons 3 cables E.N.E. harbour attacked from 1,500 feet. 1 hit scored but result not observed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1701/4). |
| Axis Shipping. | Inquiry from M.E.W. (D.N.I., 1830A/4 to S.O.(I)'s Gib., Istanbul, etc). See Lion Copy. |
| OTUS, OSIRIS. | Defects. Estimated dockyard would require at least 6 weeks for OSIRIS and probably longer for OTUS. (Capt. S.10 1843B/4 to Capt. S.1.) |
| Enemy Supplies, Libya. | Following for C. in C. M.E. from Chiefs of Staff, No. 168. Interception of enemy supplies to Libya in next few weeks is a matter of such importance that we are anxious to be in possession of all information which will enable us to form a true appreciation of the practicability of such interception. What are your views as to possibility of interception in future, bearing in mind that information, though correct in first instance, is liable to subsequent changes? (1st S.L., 1918A/4 to C. in C. Med). |
| HANES ENMEDA Italian, LISBOA German. | Sailed from Garrucha 3/9 with 6960 tons Lucainena Spathic Ore for Germany via Marseilles. LISBOA left 24/8 with 3050 tons ditto ditto. (Almeria 1951/4). |
| Enemy Ships. | Departures 3rd MAURO CROCE, Italian, Genoa: ATLAS Genoa; COETLOGON, French, Sete. (Barcelona, 2100/4). |
| OTTO LEONHARDT, German. | Finished unloading sulphate of ammonia and today 4th left for Saint Jacques to load iron ore for Genoa. (Valencia, T.H.I., 2100/4). |
| Situation Report 238. | Submarines. OTUS attacked southbound 13 merchant vessels convoy in 035° 40' N., 018° 07' E., at 1430/3 and reports sinking RAMB class. (?ship) (?with) two hits. CITY OF AUCKLAND and ROSS were attacked by enemy aircraft in Straits of Jubal between 2345/3 and 0130/4 but were apparently not damaged. COVENTRY reports 3 aircraft were detected in this area, one was seen to be twin engined and was engaged. (C. in C. Med., 22386/4). |

/Motor.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Motor Boats Suez.

Your 1216C/28, motor boats for Suez.
Necessary arrangements are being made.
(D.S.V.P. 2329A/4 to C. in C. Med.)

East Indies.

S.S. EFFINGHAM.

Your 1821/3. Ship arrived Calcutta 3/9.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0547Z/4, to Admty.)

Axis Ships ex-Persian Gulf.

Ref. A.M. 1627/3. Strongly recommend prize steamships from Persian Gulf should proceed Karachi first. Preliminary examination to be carried out at Karachi and if possible work except docking done at that port. After preliminary examination decision to be taken as to which ships are to proceed to Calcutta, Bombay, or elsewhere.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0547Z/4 to C. in C.E.I.)

Enemy Shipping. ex-Iran.

My 1500/31/8, present situation.
Para. 1. WILDENFELS left 2/9 under own steam.
Para. 2. CABOTO left 1/9 in tow SHOREHAM.
Para. 3. BARBARA left 3/9 in tow SNAPDRAGON.
Para. 4. BRONTE towed by FALMOUTH expects to leave 4/9.
Para. 5. HILDA who has taken list and made water is being turned over to tugs in Chahbar Bay (about 300 miles West of Karachi in Persian Territory.) Ship may have to be beached. Salvage tug expects to reach her A.M.5/9. YARRA is standing by. Para. 6. MARIENFELS and STURMFELS sail under own steam as soon as coaled, date of sailing uncertain due to difficulty in raising steam with scratch crew. Para. 7. Salvage work on HOHENFELS continues. KANIMBLA is standing by.
Par. 8. Immediate destination of all ships Karachi.
(C. in C.E.I., 0602Z/4, to Admty.)
I am arranging towage by H.M. Ships from Persian Gulf to Karachi of captured enemy ships which are unable to proceed under their own steam. On arrival at Karachi make arrangements for early onward towage to Bombay for repair.
(C. in C.E.I., 0726Z/4 to S.T.O. Karachi.)

/NUBIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

NUBIAN
ISIS.

Your 1933/2. NUBIAN and ISIS are being sailed as soon as weather conditions permit. Monsoon shows signs of easing now.
(C. in C.E.I., 0604Z/4, to Admty.)

Mooring Vessels.

Com. Hong Kong's 1242/1, not to Admty. Regret not possible to state when MOORLAKE can be spared from Trincomalee. There is still another first class mooring to be laid and a destroyer trot. MOORLAKE is also employed on maintenance of Boom defence until relieved by a suitable Boom working vessel. Doubtful whether LUMINARY (a converted trawler) will be capable of the work. She is not expected in Ceylon until about first week in October.
(C. in C.E.I., 0608Z/4 to C. in C. China.)

HILDA.
(Italian.)

Your 0401/2 para. 1. Only action required is delivery of ships and cargoes by Prize officer to Collector of Customs for subsequent Prize Court proceedings vide (signal) 5316 articles 205 and 206. Para 2. Question is one for Admty.
(C. in C.E.I., 0948Z/4, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MONTE PIANA.
(Italian.)

Left Capetown 25th.
(Colombo, 1200Z/4, to M. of W.T.)

Fairmiles, etc.

Reply to Admty. 1727/29/8 re maintenance.
(C. in C.E.I., 1418/4, to Cdre R.I.N.)
See Lion Copy.

HINDUSTAN fired on at Djibouti.

From Minister of State. Your 1720Z/2 Jibuti. I agree to retaliation for fire by Vichy shore batteries against our patrols. Retaliation needs (?not) be restricted to round for round.
(C. in C.M.E., 1700/4 to C. in C.E.I.)

/MARYMAR...

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies. Contd.

MARYMAR
STEEL INVENTOR
GIORGIOS G.

Have you any news of following U.S.Ships: MARYMAR and STEEL INVENTOR, due Aden 29/8 and 1/9 respectively, and Greek GIORGIOS G., due Berbera 27/8?
(D.T.D. 1955A/4 to S.O.I. Aden) Reply 0733/6.

Iran.

Summary of naval, military and air requirements in Persia (W.O., 2320/4 to C. in C. India.)
See Lion Copy.

### China.

ROGGEVEEN. (Dutch.)

Your 1820A/3. ROGGEVEEN at present at Batavia. Vessel engaged in Dutch local coastal service. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0855Z/4, to Admty.)

Japanese Shipping.

A.1. source reports 12 Japanese cargo ships in ballast at Yokosuka 31/8. 3 are modern motor ships and six modern coal burners. Others inside harbour but numbers not ascertained. All painted black. Black funnel. White upper works. Only one had Japanese flag on ships side, remainder no national markings. (N.A.Tokyo, 1029/4, to Admty.)

FUSHIMI MARU.

Due to sail for Shanghai 4/9 fully booked with passengers, cancelled her sailing midnight 3/9. Nippon Yuson Kaisha state all further sailings are postponed indefinitely. Substantial part of Japanese merchant fleet including first class liners now appear to be collected in Japanese ports.
(M.A., Tokyo, 1055/4 to Admty.)

20-Mile. Zone.

Your telegram No. 132/4 cypher 29/7. (N.T. in W.D.) Admty consider establishment of 20-mile prohibited zone undesirable, in view of our general policy of maintaining the freedom of the sea and air, and fact that at present freedom of air R/C over Gulf of Siam of greater advantage to ourselves than to Japanese.

/Attitude.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

20-Mile. Zone. (Contd.) — Attitude may be reconsidered if Japanese attack our planes or attempt to reconnoitre Malaya.
(W.O. for Air Min., 1402/4, to C. in C.Far East.)

America & West Indies.

H.X.148. S.C.43. — H.X.148 ocean escort ALAUNIA proceeding to Iceland with stores and returning to Halifax. A/S escort, SHERBROOKE, LETHBRIDGE and BYDLAC to Western R/V thence to Sydney. S.C.43, ocean escort AUSONIA to Western R/V thence returning Halifax. A/S escort ARVIDA, DAUPHIN, and BARRIE continuing to U.K., with convoy for training at Tobermory.
(R.A.3, 1029P/4, to Admty., etc.)

ASTURIAS. — To be ready to sail about 6/10. Proposed if you concur that ship spends one week working up at Bermuda.
(B.A.R.M., 1142R/4, to C. in C.S.A.)
Concur (C. in C., A.W.I., 1832Q/6.)

TULIP CLARKIA. — Request information whether TULIP and CLARKIA are now fitted for tropics in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1512/41. If fitted ships are to be sailed to Trinidad, as soon as possible.
(C. in C.W.A., 1215A/4, to B.A.R.M.)

U.S. Submarines. — Re proposed transfer. (B.A.D., 1233R/4 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume.)

Corvettes Trinidad. — Decided to base two corvettes for A/S duties at Trinidad. C. in C. W.A., is requested to sail two corvettes as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1321A/4 to C. in C.W.A.)

CALIFORNIA and WOLFE. — Are next two A.M.C's of N.A.E.F. due for refit. Propose to arrange if possible for WOLFE to be taken in hand at Saint John N.B. on completion of CHITRAL about end of September. CALIFORNIA requires work which cannot be undertaken at Saint John N.B. Propose ship should be taken in hand in U.S.A., about last week in September.
(R.A.3 1437P/4 to Admty.)

/Shipping.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Shipping, Caribbean ports. | Cancel my 1702Q/28. Resume normal routeing. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1552Q/4 to A.I.G. 129 etc.) |
| French Shipping. Military Cargoes. | Naval (i) Case 3/9 A.1. S.S.CALEDONACIDE is about to sail for Dakar carrying a ton of ammunition loaded at Casablanca and war material from Marseilles. Naval and Military (ii) Case 4/9 A.1. In addition to passengers and cargo already reported CONDE and MIDIE II had on board 2300 tons war material. (details.) ROUENNAIS carried 13 cars and 20 trucks. BOURGES carried 2185 tons fuel etc. ARCTURUS carried 12 officers and 72 men of Tirailleurs, Senegalais etc., CARTHAGE, 56 motorised vehicles and SAINTE BASILE, 6 protected trucks. (B.A.D. 1815R/4, to Admty.) |
| U.S.S/M. | Your 1536B/5/8. (N.T. in W.D. Request Menzies may keep in touch with Crossman of British Admiralty re suitability of W/T apparatus.) Navy will turn vessel over converted to our requirements. (B.A.D., 1819R/4, to F.O.S.) |
| VAN KINSBERGEN. | Programme. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1845A/4 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.) See Lion Copy. |
| EMPRESS OF ASIA. | My 1609Z/2 EMPRESS OF ASIA arrived New York dry dock 1900/4 was down to 6 knots last 4 days. Ship is not seaworthy and will take at least 8 days to effect essential repairs. Proposals. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1933Z/4 to D. of S.T.) |
| U.S. Atlantic Fleet. | Direction to C. in C., U.S. Atlantic Fleet, re use of his forces against raiders. (V.C.N.S., 1934A/4 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.A.W.I, etc.) See Operations Volume. |
| T.C.15. | Your 0259/3. Confirm total 14,000 includes R.A.F. and all services personnel so far as can be foreseen. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2042Z/4 to D. of S.T.) |
| S.S.Convoy, Indigo 3. | Following received from Opnav, delivered to Cinclant and Comtask Group 15.1 for action. For information to Spenavo, London, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa and S.O.P.A., Iceland. Special service convoy INDIGO 3 departs New York 1300 G.M.T/5, speed 12 knots routed as follows. (Spenavo, 2046/4 to Admty.) |

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. S.E. Pacific Force.

Your 1222Q/2 para. 1. Area of operation should read as follows:-
To eastward of line joining
(a) Mexican Guatemalan border.
(b) 005° 00' S., 095° 00' W.
(c) 005° 30' S., 100° 00' W., thence south on Meridian 100° W. Navy Dept. confirms this.
(B.A.D., 2101R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

DESPATCH. Search for Raider.

Your 1222 Q/2 para. 4. Arrangement made for Baloa.
(B.A.D., 2115R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

"R" report.

Following received from U.S.source. British ship PORT ADELAIDE reported on arrival Balboa that at 1320Z/4 she heard radio distress call from vessel being attacked by surface raider in Pacific estimated 300 miles from Balboa in an unknown direction.
(B.A.D., 2125R/4 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Ocean Routeing.

C. in C.A and W.,I., 1501/2. If suggestions are concurred in and with ref. to para 2 it is anticipated N.S.HQ. Ottawa will recommend that all ports in Ottawa area where N.C.S.O. and C.S.A's are already stationed will be designated. (2) Indicated future requirements and arrangements for Ottawa area have been fully discussed with appropriate U.S.N. Officers who are in full agreement and prepared to co-operate.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 2135Z/4 to Admty.)

FORT RICHEPANSE.

N.C.S.O. Halifax's 2311Z/28 gave departure of FORT RICHEPANSE from Sydney, C.B. as 29/8. Ship reported crossing 30° W., at 1100/1 which put her 2 days ahead of time. Request apparent discrepancy be investigated.
Your 2054Z/28 refers.
(D.T.D., 2217A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Reply: 1632/8. See also U-Boat Campaign.

MOST SECRET.

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

FORT RICHEPANSE (torpedoed 3/9).

PIORUN and GARLAND in company. Survivors of FORT RICHEPANSE report that they were torpedoed by U-boat, 1830Z/3 in 052° 34' N., 020° 23' W. approx. Rescued 26 survivors (1 cot case) in thick fog, 37 missing. After searching vicinity for 9 hours am proceeding to Clyde, my course and speed is 068° 24. Meteorological report. (PIORUN, 1200A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
PIORUN 26 survivors FORT RICHEPANSE on board 53.29 N., 19. 20 W. (C. in C. W.A., No. T.O.O./4 to 15 Group, from N/221).
A/C Message received. Report if any further survivors are known to be in boats. If so search as long as fuel permits. (C. in C. W.A., 1312A/4 to PIORUN).

### Submarines Reported.

0955. Following has been read. Am investigating suspicious object (oil patch) in 56.02 N., 10.23 W. circular diameter one advise. (A/C J of 224 Sqdn. on A.S. Sweep, 0955/4 to W/T Station using call sign 7KZ).

0810Z. Report received from P.M.O. that South African A/C sighted periscope in position 13° 30' S., 12° 30' E., at 0810Z/4. S/M submerged and withdrew periscope when approached. A/C intends examine area on return flight Lobito to Mossamedes. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1002Z/4 to Admty).

1138 G.M.T. By D/F at 1138 G.M.T. U-boat in area within 30 miles of 51° 30' N., 16° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1317A/4 to WANDERER, WESTON etc).
There are D/F indications of the presence of more than one U-boat in the vicinity of each convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1645A/4 to FOWEY, WANDERER, WESTON etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1410A/4).

/0850 G.M.T.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

0850 G.M.T. Major Madeley, pilot of South African Airways mail plane, reports sighting periscope of Submarine at 0850 G.M.T./4 at 12° 30' E., 13° 30' S., about 2 miles off coast 10 miles South of Cape Santa Maria. S/M was travelling in N.W. direction when first spotted and submerged when plane circled over her. Pilot made radio report to Capetown. (Consul Gen., Loanda, 1416/4 to Admty).

10/8 Philadelphia report begins. American ship LEHIGH reported sighting large enemy S/M carrying 2 guns on surface 10/8 position about 100 miles N.W. of San Miguel Azores.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1526Z/4 to Admty).

1748. 1 S/M bearing 245° 7 miles Course unknown. My position 005 36° N., 12° W., 5 from a fix at 1400. (WILD SWAN, 1748/4 to Gibraltar W/T)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1955A/4 to N.A. Stn).

1640 G.M.T. By D/F at 1640 G.M.T. U-boat in 62° 20' N., 4° E., unreliable fix. Signal was repeated at 1658 G.MT. (D.D.I.C., 1840A/4 to V.A. 2 etc).

1914 G.M.T. Bearings at 1914 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 14 N. (D.D.I.C., 2107A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C and U.S.S. GREER. Am over enemy S/M in 62° 55' N., 20° W., S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C using call sign Z7KM, 0715/4 to Reykjavik W/T).
Following has been read. Addressed Ships and Shore Stations from U.S.S. GREER. Submarine submerged lat. 62.48 long. 27.30.
(Iceland W/T 0921/4).
United States Navy Dept. announces that a submarine attacked the U.S. destroyer GREER yesterday morning (says Reuter in a Washington message received early to-day). The torpedoes missed. The GREER was on the way to Iceland and was carryin mail. She counter-attacked with depth charges, but the results are not known.
(The Times 5/9/41).

/Following.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked - Contd.

By A/C and U.S.S. GREER. Contd.

Following telephone message has been received from the American Embassy:-
"About 1900/4 U.S.S. GREER proceeding on mail trip to Hvalfiord was attacked by submarine firing three torpedoes in approx. 62° 45' N., 27° 30' W. GREER counter-attacked on 2 occasions with depth charges, the result is unknown. (Duty Capt. 5/9/1941).
Aircraft M. 0735/4 (0715/4 intended) WATCHMAN proceeding to search from 063° 28' N., 022° 49' W. at 0945A. (MALCOLM, 0955A/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland, etc).
M M Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, result unknown. (A/C Using Call Sign 27 K M. 1040/4 to Kaldadarnes H/F D/F Stn).
Your 1041A (N.T. in W.R.) Aircraft cover being maintained. U.S.A. destroyer is in contact with S/M. (A.C.I.C., 1142/4 to MALCOLM, WATCHMAN, SARDONYX).
O.N.11 U.K. escort 1400 A situation:-
(A) WATCHMAN searching for U-boat in position of aircraft "M" 0735A/4 report.
(B) MALCOLM SARDONYX refuel Hvalfjord subsequently relieving WATCHMAN.
(C) WISTARIA escort Iceland portion off Skagi.
(D) PETUNIA, ARABIS MONKSHOOD, NORTHERN PRIDE, NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN SPRAY with O.N. 11, leaving about 1600 A to meet S.C. 41 and carry out exercise sweep through U-boat (?latest area). Intend continuing above search in U-boat area for 48 hours from initial report of S/M activity, illumination from moonset until daylight assisted by A/C with flares. (S.O.S Escort Group, 1146A/4 to A.C.I.C., etc).
Have made contact with aircraft am proceeding to hunt. Estimate position 062° 55' N., 027° 20' W., Aircraft bearing from me 210° 10 miles. (WATCHMAN, 1445A/4 to MALCOLM).
WATCHMAN and Corvette searching. Trawler proceeding independently to R/V S.C. 41. Corvette leaving me 0700. My P.C. and S. 062° 55' 027°10' 180° 12 knots. (WATCHMAN, 2330A/4 to MALCOLM).

By A/C

From A/C using call sign YU7X. Am over enemy S/M in position 52.00 N., 18.20 W. (Liverpool W/T 1210/4 to 15 Group).
Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface when first sighted was on course 150° speed 6. (A/C using Call Sign YU7 X 1210/4 to 15 Group).
Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and estimate one hit. (Aircraft using call sign YU7 1225/4 to Reykjavik W/T).

/By Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked- Contd.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in position 51.25 N., 15.35 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit. (A/C using call sign 9AWY, 1331/4 to 15 (R) Group H.Q.)
WESTCOTT and CAMPBELLTOWN are searching for S/M in 051° 25' N., 015° 25' W.
(WESTCOTT, 1610A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

By
ST. ALBANS

Have attacked contact classified as U-Boat 4 times position (?051°) 05' N., 015° 50' W. No visible signs of destruction, am continuing to hunt. EMPIRE GUNNER proceeding 8 knots course 086°. (ST. ALBANS, 1715A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1715A/4. Have made 2 further attacks, contact lost after last delivery. Area searched but without regaining contact. Am rejoining EMPIRE GUNNER. (ST. ALBANS, 1845A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

One Enemy Cruiser and 3 Destroyers were reported by A/C at 0425 today to be steering East in Christiania Fiord; and at 1230 a photographic R/C of Oslo showed SCHEER alongside but EMDEN not present and no Destroyers in the port.

C. in C. Nore reports considerable difficulty in providing sufficient Destroyers for the escort of East Coast and Channel convoys and asks when Portsmouth Destroyers will again be available for this duty.

A Patrol of 2 M.G.B's. and amother of 3 M.T.B's. will operate in the Straits of Dover tonight to act on any reports of E-Boats received from Dover.

The Destroyer RIPLEY which grounded under Flamborough Head yesterday arrived in the Humber in tow at 2310 to-day.

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead was bombed by one A/C at 0848 today. 3 naval casualties were caused and some damage to buildings, but none to Government property.

At 0135 the St. Govans Light Vessel was bombed with very slight damage and no casualties.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

**Mining.**

Operation E.H. was completed this morning and MANXMAN arrived at Port Z.A. at 1920.

3 M.L's and 3 M.T.B's. left Harwich at 1907A to carry out Operation Q.K.7 off the Belgian Coast.

The Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0021 today owing to suspected minelaying.

1 Mine was detonated off the Tyne today, 2 off Hartlepool, 2 off Milford Haven and 1 off the Humber.

**North Atlantic.**

Repairs. — It is approved for MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE (damaged by A/C torpedo attack in operation "Substance" on 23/7) to proceed to the U.S.A. for repairs.

Suspicious Convoy. — PHILANTE (sloop) at midday today reported a suspicious convoy in 32.52 N., 22.32 W. at 2100Z/4, course S.E. (see 6/9).

**South Atlantic.**

W.S.10. — Convoy W.S.10, which left the Clyde on 2/8, arrived at Durban, escorted by HAWKINS.

W.S.10X. — Everything possible is to be done to expedite Convoy W.S.10X, at present in the vicinity of St. Helena. If one ship governs the speed of passage there is no objection to her proceeding independently after the remainder beyond Capetown.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| French Fleet, Alexandria. | A message to Adm. Muselier today throws light on the internal conditions of the French ships at Alexandria. |
| PHOEBE. | If repairs to PHOEBE (damaged by A/C torpedo off Bardia on 27/8) are beyond the station's resources she will probably be taken in hand in U.S.A. |
| Egypt and Suez Canal. | There were 2 raids on the Suez area last night by about 8 enemy aircraft. No service damage or casualties were caused, but the Canal is closed between K.M.95 and Deversoir and 152 to Port Tewfik. The main attack was directed against the shipping anchorage, Suez, but caused no damage. It is possible that mines were dropped. |
| Malta. | 2 aircraft dropped bombs on Malta last night without causing any damage or casualties. 1 was shot down into the sea by Hurricanes. |
| Libya and Western Desert. | Swordfish aircraft sent to attack ships outside Tripoli found none, but laid a mine in the harbour approaches. |
| | 13 Wellingtons attacked M/T depots at Tripoli with good results. |
| | A Blenheim on sea R/C attacked an Italian U/boat 170 miles N. of Sollum, but no visible damage was reported. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Djibouti. The Minister of State, Middle East, having concurred in the policy of reprisals for Djibouti defences firing on H.M. ships, instructions have been given to S.N.O. Red Sea Force for patrol ships, who will take immediate action on future occasions.

Caspian Sea. As the result of recent operations in Persia, the line of supply to the Caspian Sea will pass through area controlled by C. in C. E.I., who therefore recommends that any projected operation in the Caspian should come under him.

America and West Indies.

Shipping Diversions. To facilitate shipping diversions, the U.S. naval authorities have been informed that a 2-letter group will be used in signals to indicate the reason for the diversion. Details are contained in Admty. 1748A/5.

U.S. Escorts. Dates for the start of escorts to high speed convoys by U.S. Forces were reported today.

U-Boat Campaign.

Norwegian EINVIK was torpedoed at 0534 G.M.T. this morning in 60.38 N., 30.18 W. She was a straggler from S.C.41.

Admiralty today congratulated Coastal Command on the successful attack on a German U/B on 27/8, when the U/B surrendered and was captured.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rosyth Escort Force. (WOLFHOUND.) | In view of damage to WOLFHOUND request she may be replaced in Rosyth Escort Force at an early date by a Hunt Class Destroyer or Sloop. (C. in C. Rosyth 1035/5.) |
| WELLS. | Was sent to Hull for refit. In view of Admiralty 1343A/4 propose this ship be reduced to C. and M and be treated as a long term job. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1116A/5.) |
| Iceland, N.C.S.O. and D.E.M.S. Staffs | Your 2208A/1. Chief difficulty is lack of suitable boats to collect Capts of ships and distribute sailing orders. Hoped to hire Icelandic drifters to alleviate this. Consider one more officer necessary at Reykjavik and one officer at Hvalfjord advantageous. No accommodation for either officer is available now. Anticipate accommodation will be available in December. (A.C.I.C., 1205/5 to Admty.) |
| ATHERSTONE. | Your 1727A/3. When PUCKERIDGE has worked up and joined 1st D.F. ATHERSTONE will be transferred to Plymouth Command. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1717A/5.) |
| Destroyers for Channel Convoys. | A.M. 1616B/29/5, 1316B/28/6, 1647B/20/7 and my 1026B/30/5. Two Destroyers from Nore Command have been provided as escort for C.E.48 owing to C. in C. Portsmouth being unable to provide any. It is understood that no Destroyers from Portsmouth will be available for C.W.49 sailing on 8th September. 2. Considerable difficulty is being experience in meeting commitments which has been enhanced by frequent breakdowns and consequent docking of S.A. fitted Destroyers. Ten out of 13 available Destroyers are now at sea and the remaining 3 proceed to sea tomorrow morning. 3. It is not considered desirable to reduce the scale of escorts provided for protection of East Coast convoys in view of large convoys and number of Tankers in convoy. 4. Request information when it is likely Portsmouth Destroyers will again be available to escort Channel convoys. (C. in C. Nore 1800A/5 to Adty.) |
| ALBATROSS. (Norwegian Refugees.) | One Norwegian and one naturalised American Norwegian arrived off Dunbar in sailing yacht at 1815 today. Name of Yacht ALBATROSS Port of Registry Oslo. Reported left Oslo 28/7. Norwegians have been detained on board patrol craft which will tow yacht into Leith tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Leith 2130/5.) |

/CAP .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

CAP DES PALMES. — Following received from F.O.I.C. Liverpool begins: A.L. M/O.D. 1016/41 of 4 August to B.N.L.O. to General De Gaulle and A.M.1810A/28/8 to C. in C.W.A. Instructions are requested as to where vessel is now to be taken in hand for conversion, observing that A.L. referred to stated this would be done in U.S.A. Ends. Request Admiralty reply.
(C. in C.W.A. 2134A/5.)

Oban A/S Patrol. — Your 1511A/2 approved.
(D.A/S.W. 2157A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

H.33. — Estimate my position is south of Ronaldsay mean course 183° speed 8 knots. Request bombing restrictions.
(H.33 0710A/5 to F.O.S.)
Your 0710A/5 not understood. WHITE BEAR is waiting in R/V 180° Lizard Head 5 miles. Indicate your position and proceed to join her.
(Capt. S.3 0959A/5 to H.33.)
H.33 reported in 199° Longships 5 at 1940.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2011/5 to WHITE BEAR.)

PROTEUS. — (a) Proceed submerged by day whilst between latitude 043° 40' N., and 045° 40' N. (b)Netherlands S/M 023 is to R/V on 9/9 as previously ordered.
(F.O.S.1251A/5 to PROTEUS.)

TAKU. — (A) After passing 169° 43° N., 10° W. at 0900A/8th proceed through 46° N., 7° 50' W. Thence submerge by day to R/V on 12/9 with escort in vicinity Trevose Head as ordered by Captain (S) 7 for onward passage to Rothesay.
(F.O.S. 1253A/5 to TAKU.)

SOKOL. — Intend to sail SOKUL at 1530A/7. Route to N.A.Station.
(Capt. S.5. 1422A/5 and 1922A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

0.23. — F.O.(S) 1554A/4. From position (E) proceed through 270° Wolf Rock 3 miles to R/V with WHITE BEAR in 250° Trevose Head 10 miles at 0630A/9.
(Capt. S.3 1509A/5 to 0.23.)

/ELECTRA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

ELECTRA ACTIVE. Departure ELECTRA, ACTIVE for Archangel. E.T.A. Dvina Light vessel 1200C/6. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/5.)

KROOMAN. Your 1450A/30/8 and 1045A/5/9. Propose sailing Rescue Tug KROOMAN for Hull on 7/9 for boiler cleaning. Propose that KROOMAN tows Tug NESS POINT from Lowestoft to Grimsby. (F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 1838A/5.)

BERWICK. My 1707B/26th July. Intend sailing BERWICK to Rosyth on 15/9 to complete turbine repairs as arranged. These are likely to take 3 to 4 weeks. (C. in C.H.F. 1913A/5.)

H.43. My 1542/5. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2130A/5.)

Operations.

Operation "Dervish". Your 2019/3.(Re B.B.C.Broadcast.) Reply. (1st. S.L.0026A/5 to Ad.Miles.) See Operations Vol.

TRIDENT Torpedoes. Your 1153C/3. Reply. (F.O.S.1223A/5 to B.S.N.O. Murmansk.) See Operations Volume.

Operation "Gauntlet". Your 2116/4. HAZEL (?Oiler OLIGARCH)VAN OOST will now arrive position GG 075° N.002°E.,at 2359A/8, and there remain until noon 9th for Force A. From noon 9th at your disposal, but trawlers must reach coaling port by 16th. If no orders are received they will sail noon 9th for Hvalfjord. Spitzbergen ports and approaches now less healthy for unprotected oilers.(S.O.Force A 1232A/5 to C.S.1.) S.O.Force "A"'s 2251/4. If endurance permits, EMPRESS OF CANADA with escort of two Destroyers is to proceed from position 2 to Clyde via Minches. (11) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for long range fighter escort to be provided during daylight/6th. (C. in C.H.F. 2346A/5.)

Dover Straits Patrols. Weather permitting M.G.B's 46(S.O.)and 52 will be near South Varne Buoy during passage of C.E.48 tonight to act on E Boat reports from Dover R.D.F. M.T.B.'s 219 (S.O.) 38 and 218 will be near East Varne Buoy to attack shipping on French Coast Route. Neither force will approach within 5 (word omitted ? miles) Convoy route before daylight. (N.O.I.C.Dover 1701/5 to MENDIP)(V.A.Dover 1801A/5.)

/Patrols....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. STAND in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0032/5.)
Cross over A/S patrol between following positions in operation from dawn today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0630/5.)
P.R.U. Kristiansand, Horten, Oslo in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1226/5.)
My 0630/5. A/C withdrawn.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1238/5.)

A/C Russia. Flying off arrangements.
(D.C.D.H. 2140A/5 and V.C.N.S. 2156A/5)
See Operations Volume.

Enemy Air Activity.

Peterhead bombed. Junkers 88 flew over Peterhead from S. to N., at about 3000 feet at 0848 dropping 2 bombs. Three naval ratings injured. Names. No damage to Government property. Ships and shore defences in action before bombs were dropped with negative result.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0930/5.)

St. Govans. Light Vessel. VALENTIA. (Trawler,) bombed. St. Govans Light Vessel bombed at 0135/5. Three near misses, slight damage, no casualties, light and fog signal correct. Trawler VALENTIA arrived Milford Haven damaged by near misses in 30 miles N.W. by N. of Stockholm at 2330/4. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1710A/5.)

Mining.

Tees Hartlepool. Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0021/5.)

Operation E.H. Scapa arrival. F.O.C.10th C.S. in KENYA with MANXMAN and LIGHTNING.
(A.C.O.S. 0032/5.)
Operation "E H" completed.
(V.A.2. 0943A/5.)
MANXMAN is to sail for port Z.A. leaving harbour at 1315 today.
(C.S.10. 1051/5 to MANXMAN.)

/C.S.10's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation E.H.(Contd.)

C.S.10's 1051A/ E.T.A. 1845 today.
(MANXMAN 1132/5.)
Scapa departure MANXMAN for Port Z.A.
(A.C.O.S. 1401/5.)
British Mines laid at about 0245A/4 in following area. Enemy Mines cut by MANXMAN paravane in following position.
(C.S.10. 1746A/5.)
See Operations Volume.
MANXMAN may be placed at 48 hours notice for steam. (A.C.N.S.H. 1802A/5.)
Arrival MANXMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1920/5.)

Tyne.

Detonated 1 red ground magnetic mine at 1042/5. Details.
(P.M.S.O. North Shields 1112/5.)

Operation S.N.61.

Admiralty's 1320A/4. AGAMEMNON will arrive at Clyde Gate at 1130/8. My 1137/5 refers.
(R.A.M. 1138/5, to Adty.)
Intend to carry out as follows on 7 and 8/9 with AGAMEMNON and CASTLETON.
(R.A.M. 1457A/5.) See Operations Volume.

Hartlepool.

1 red mine exploded by L. sweeper 54° 40' 57" N. 01° 09' 30" W., at 1358 and red mine approx., same position at 1458.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1500/5, and 1735/5.)

Operation QK.7.

Weather permitting operation Q.K(7) will be carried out tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1710A/5.)
Departures M.L's 106 105 and 100.
M.T.B's 34 31 and 43 at 1907.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910A/5.)

Milford Haven.

One red mine detonated by single L Trawler, and one red mine by Dutch LL Drifters. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/5.)

Humber.

Following mine detonated at 1255 to-day. Details. (F.O.Humber 1945A/5.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Force off Christiansand.

1 Cruiser, 3 Destroyers bearing 181° distance 5 miles, Course 290°. My position 58° 7' N., 9° E. (A/C. P/- 0130/5.)
One Cruiser, three destroyers, 080°.
58° 53' N., 10° (?0') E. Cancels my 0130.
(R.A.F. JS8P.2. 0319/5 to Wick.)
Position.ZNEA 5320 58° 53' N., 10° 20' E., Course 080°, Speed. Unknown.
(R.A.F. J.S.8P. 0425/5 to 18 Group H.Q.)

Oslo.

Preliminary examination of photographic R/C of Oslo at 1230 to-day showed SCHEER alongside. No destroyers present. EMDEN not present.
(D.D.I.C. 2103A/5.)

Technical.

Fuelling at Sea.

It is desired to carry out the following trials of oiling at sea.
(A) Oiling BRITOMART Class minesweeper and FLOWER Class corvette in Clyde-Londonderry area.
(B) Oiling sloop in Southern latitudes.
Proposed arrangements.
(C. in C.W.A. 1313A/5.)

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port is now open.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich 0700A/5.)

Casualties & Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR.
MOSLI.
ATHELTEMPLAR.
OLVINA aground.

Your 0919/4. BRITISH HOPE arrived. BRITISH VALOUR, MOSLI, and ATHELTEMPLAR aground on Shambles. Escort standing.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0200A/5, 0400A/5,0410A/5.)
MOSLI reports herself afloat.
Tugs RESOLVE and PILOT, A/S Trawlers LA NANTAISE, HERTFORDSHIRE, and LORD HAILSHAM, Destroyer KRAKOWIAK, sweepers CROMER and BLACKPOOL, anchored in vicinity. Oiler ELDEROL being sent out at daylight to lighten ships if required. Anticipate ships can be floated without further assistance but Trawler OLVINA ashore 200° 1½ cables from Coast Guard St. Albans requires tug. Request one be sailed.(F.O.I.C. Portland 0525A/5.)
My 0525A/5. OLVINA afloat.
(F.O.I.C.Portland 0920A/5.)
My 1903A/5. ATHEL TEMPLAR now in Portland.

/BRITISH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.41.
Friday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties & Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR. MOSLI. ATHELTEMPLAR. OLVINA aground. (Contd.)

BRITISH VALOUR reported again grounded on Shambles. Resuming towing at 0530/6. (N.O.I.C.Portland 2210A/5.)

AMBUSCADE.

Arrival with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1545/5.) AMBUSCADE 1802A/4. Condenser trouble attributable to movement of ship in rough weather. Intend she should sail on next rough weather to confirm this opinion. (Capt. D. Greenock 1907/5.)

BLANKNEY.

Has developed serious defects in type 128 which necessitate dry docking for four days. This can be undertaken at Londonderry. Intend sailing BLANKNEY to arrive Londonderry 8/9. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 1612A/5.)

H.D.M.L. 1064.

Grounded A.M. to-day off Holm of Howton. A/S Dome lost. (OC.A.P.S. 1746/5.)

COMFORT.

Aground in Harris. Taking water. Require immediate assistance. (COMFORT 2300/5.)

RIPLEY. (Grounded 4/9.)

Arrival RIPLEY, tugs HEADMAN and SCOTSMAN in attendance, DRAUG escorting, at 2310. (F.O.Humber 2324A/5.)

### Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy "Dervish".

Request standard route for detached ships for the return of 'Dervish" may be signalled as soon as possible. Urgently required by Commodore of convoy. (Miles, 1009C/5 to Admty.)

Iceland Ships.

Approved to send Lieut. Tamber with 65 men wishing to join Norwegian forces to London by first opportunity. Also to unload cargo of coal and dispose of locally. Ships with crews will be time-chartered to M. of W.T. (Head of M. 1041A/5 to A.C.I.C.)

/Sailed.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Iceland Ships (Contd.) — Sailed 11 Merchant Ships at 1200Z escorted by WINDERMERE and SEALYHAM to join S.C.41 in position F at 0700Z/6.
(A.C.I.C., 1442/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.145. — Met as arranged with 83 ships, all now arrived. Fair weather after first few days.
(D.T.D. 1452A/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Numbers and cargoes. (D.S.730, 4/9.)

SESSA. — Have you any news of Panamanian SESSA due Reykjavik about 18/8 from New York?
(D.T.D.1739A/5 to N.C.S.O.Iceland.)

C.E.48. — Provision of destroyer escort.
(C. in C. Nore 1800A/5.) See Policy.

D.S.11.
C.T.2. — My 2238A/5, sail D.S.11 and C.T.2 when SAGUENAY is ready.
(C. in C.W.A. 2245A/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Whole convoy is to return to Greenock forthwith.
NEWARK CHARLESTOWN proceed Greenock.
(C. in C.W.A.,2328A/5, to ST.LAURENT, NEWARK.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 4/9. French Westbound PARAME, MEN GWEN, full PONTET CANET in ballast. Eastbound CARIMARE, THISBE full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/5 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

TRUSTY. Intend to sail TRUSTY A.M./6 for Gibraltar. (Route.) TRUSTY is painted grey with white letters and numbers on conning tower.
(Capt. S.3, 1107A/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE. Leave Patrol P.M./6 for Gibraltar. Route (A) 035° N., 020° W., thence along parallel 035°. Report position at 0001/7.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/5 to CLYDE.)

Suspicious Convoy. Unidentified convoy about 8 ships and 2 or 3 smaller escorting ships passed 10 miles Westward of S L.85 Southbound after dark at 2100Z/4. My position then 032° 52' N., 022° 20' W., 356° speed 6½ knots capable of 7½ knots. Weather.
(PHILANTE, 1241A/5, to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A.)

DURHAM. Your 1716A/4. Approved for docking at Gibraltar provided that dock is kept at 48 hours notice for use of H.M.ships.
(D.O.D.(F) 1342A/5 to C.S.Gibraltar.)

ENCOUNTER. Due to sail Ponta Delgada P.M./5 to R/V REPULSE in position SUMMER at 1100A/7.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1448A/5, to DUNEDIN.)
ENCOUNTER left Ponta Delgada 2015 G.M.T./5.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1922/5.)

Enemy Shipping. My 1736A/31. Left Barcelona 3rd.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1838A/5 to S/M O.24.)

MANCHESTER.
FIREDRAKE. Your 1704A/4. Proposals approved. Request you will sail ships accordingly and arrange to inform B.A.R.M. of E.T.A., at destinations.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1847A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ammunition. Your 1436A/4. Request outfit and reserves ammunition accompany guns insufficient stock held.(C.S., Gib., 2036A/5 to Admty.)
Reply: 1548/6.

/German.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

German Shipping.

(1) German SULLBERG loading at Sagunto 30/8 for Genoa or Savona. 1300 tons Iron Ore 1,000 tons Pig Iron. (2) ELISABETH HENRIK FISSER arrived Genoa 1/9 expected to be unloaded by 4/9. Probable return Route Barcelona - Sagunto - Valencia. (3) HANS SCHMIDT loading Agua Amarga ready to sail about 6/9 for Genoa or Savona.
(D.N.I., 2055A/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

### South Atlantic.

CARTHAGE
JUPITER
HAWKINS
W.S.10.

5/9 Durban departure CARTHAGE at 0400Z in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1854Z/2. Arrivals. JUPITER at 0440Z, HAWKINS escorting Durban portion W.S.10.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0704Z/5 to C. in C.E.I., C. in C.S.A. etc.)

TOMBOUCTOU
(French.)

Departure, - Lagos 5th.
(R.O.Accra, 0940/5 to M. of W.T.)

ALBATROSS
GAZCON.

Your 1801/4. Return to Freetown, report if you sight GAZCON at any time and if you have any other information. Up to what point did you search coast?
(C. in C.S.A., 1027N/5, to ALBATROSS.)

EMPIRE
ATTENDANT.

Overdue Shipping. EMPIRE ATTENDANT due Capetown 1/9 not arrived.
(Capetown, 1112B/5, to Admty., etc.)

S/M Report
4/8.

Possibly French looking for GAZCON.
(C. in C.S.A., 1205N/5.)
See U-Boat Campaign.

ALCANTARA.

My 1255Z/4th. Amend time of sailing to read 1830Z engine defects and delay receiving oil.
(ALCANTARA, 1302Z/5, to Admty., C. in C.S.A.etc.)

/Norwegian.....

War Diary

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Norwegian Personnel LACONIA. | Your 0300/3. Request whereabouts of seventy Norwegian personnel. Norwegian Consul Capetown has no information. (? P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1432B/5, to D.S.T.) |
| W.S.10. | Position. Durban portion W.S.10. (A) arrived 5/9 with exception of DIOMEDE. (B) storing, fuelling and repairing (C) ARONDA 9th C.M.17, 11th NIEUW AMSTERDAM.(B) disembarks P.O.W, storing, fuelling and repairing. (C) 8/9 MAURETANIA. (C) 8/9. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 1543Z/5, to D. of S.T.) |
| Sea Transport Durban and Capetown. | Following from Milmis Pretoria via Impean (begins.) Ref. previous telegram on Admty., proposal to alter location of P.S.T.O. from Simonstown to Durban. Understand Admiral Simonstown has signalled Admty., that proposal is not concurred in because M. of W.T. does not favour move and Dechief prepared to leave things as they are. Feel sure Q.M.G. can be persuaded to agreement to change. Have watched arrival at Durban W.S.10 which has proved perfect example of real difficulty produced almost entirely by existing situation. Feel it is essential that Admiralty recommendation be adhered to. (Ends.) (Imperial Movements Control, Durban,?1560/5 to W.O.) |
| ASTURIAS. | Your 1142B/4. Concur subject to concurrence of C. in C.A. & W.I. (C. in C.S.A., 1606N/5, to B.A.R.M.) |
| W.S.10X. | Everything possible should be done to expedite passage of W.S.10X to its destination. If one ship governs the speed of passage there is no objection to her proceeding independently after the remainder beyond Capetown. (V.C.N.S. 1735A/5 to C. in C.S.A., etc.) |
| TOMBOUCTOU (French.) | Arrived. (Lagos, 1835/5, to M. of W.T.) |
| Destroyer Refits. | Your 0151N/3. Request you will submit a proposed programme of refits of destroyers and corvettes in U.K. for next two months. (D.O.D.(F) 1844A/5 to C. in C.S.A.) |

/DORSETSHIRE....

War Diary. 5.9.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| DORSETSHIRE. EAGLE. | DORSETSHIRE is to remain in company with EAGLE when proceeding to fuel from ECHODALE. If you have not already left patrol line to fuel report by W/T on leaving that you are doing so but not before. Report to be made preferably when about 200 miles N.E. of St. Paul's Rock. (C. in C.S.A., 2021N/5 to S.O.Force F.) |
| SOBIESKI DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. | S.T.O. Capetown's 1437/27/8 and 0937/29/8. SOBIESKI and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD may be delayed two days in Lagos and two in Freetown for loading cargo. 2. Request you advise S.T.O's concerned as to whether this delay to escort can be accepted. (D.of S.T. 2233A/5, to C. in C.S.A.) |
| Troop Transport C.M. Convoys. | Your 1216/27/8. Shipping available, and proposals. (D.S.T., 2301A/5 to P.S.T.O., Simonstown.) See Lion Copy. |

Mediterrancan.

| | |
|---|---|
| W.S.10. | Following are disposal instructions for vessels of W.S.10. (D.S.T., 0349A/5 to P.S.T.O. Egypt, etc.) See Lion Copy. |
| French Fleet, Alexandria. | Message for Adm. Muselier from Jaquet. (R.A.Alexandria, 10130/5 to Admty.) See Operations Volume. |
| Abu Sueir Raid, 3/4. Suez Raids, 4/5. | My A869, 4/9. About 28 enemy aircraft attacked Abu Sueir night 3/4. No further damage reported. Night 4/5. Two raids on Suez area each by about 8 enemy aircraft. Bombs dropped at Suez and Kasfareet. Patrols by 15 Hurricanes and 3 Beaufighters made no interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F.,M.E., 1032/5.) See also 13420/5. |

/OTUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

OTUS. Second tanker expected to pass your position about dawn/6. If not encountered by 1900C return to Alexandria to arrive sanctuary 0600C/11 routed as in my 1750C/3.
(Capt. S.1, 1127C/5, to OTUS.)

Troop Transport. My 1920/14/8. Can additional ship be allocated to assist in moving of Pioneer Companies from Mombasa to Suez. S.S.T.O. India Bombay requested to advise if he can allocate a ship for the purpose.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1305/5, to D. of S.T.)

Suez Raids. C.A.F.O. 587. First Raid. (a) 4/5 Sept., calm clear. (b) Attack on Suez by 8 enemy A/C 7 to 12,000 feet, 22 (?12) - 0018, no flares, bright moon (c) H.E. (d) 12 H.E. mostly in water (e) no service damage or casualties (f) 15 fighters up, (g) balloons flying.
Second raid. (a) 4/5 Sept. calm clear. (b) high and medium level attack on Suez by 14 enemy A/C 4 - 14,000 feet, 0308 - 0527 no flares, bright moon. (c) H.E. and mine. (d) 20 H.E. 3 U.X.B. 2 X.M. and several U.X.B. or U.X.M. in approaches to Canal 2 U.X.M. in Canal (e) no service damage or casualties (?extensive) damage to Egyptian State Railway installations. Egyptian military casualties. (f) 10 fighters up. (g) balloons flying.
Canal closed km. 95 to Deversoir and (?152) to Port Tewfik. Attaching port open subject to restrictions.
(S.B.N.O.Suez Canal, 1342C/5, to Admty. etc.)

PHOEBE. If repairs to PHOEBE are beyond the station's resources request date she will be ready for ocean passage. She will probably be taken in hand in U.S.A.
(D.D.D.(F) 1343A/5 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS TORBAY. Amend route in my 2310C/3 as follows. Pass east of Amorgo Island through Scarpanto Channel and position 032° 20' 029° 36'. TORBAY leaves Alexandria p.m./6 through 032° 18' 029° 22' and Kaso Straits thence N.W.
(Capt. S.1, 1510C/5, to PERSEUS.)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Malta Raid. | Night 4/5. 2 aircraft dropped bombs, no damage or casualties, searchlights illuminated 1 Br.20 which was shot down in flames into sea by Hurricanes. |
| M/V's attacked Cotrone, Tripoli mined, and bombed. | Day 4/9. 5 Blenheims attacked ships taking refuge Cotrone after Swordfish attack night 2/3. 1 MV 6/8000 tons hit and explosion seen, 2 other ships attacked, result not observed. Night 4/5 Swordfish sent attack ships outside Tripoli, no ships seen. 1 aircraft laid mine in harbour approaches. 13 Wellingtons attacked motor transport depots, Tripoli from 2255 to 0300 hours. Medium gliding and low attacks down to 500 feet, target well and truly hit. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/5.) |
| 830 Sqdn. | Their Lordships note with satisfaction the series of successes obtained by 830 Squadron during 1941, especially against enemy shipping during recent months, and wish to congratulate all personnel concerned. (5 S.L., 1730A/5, to V.A.Malta.) |
| Situation report 139. | 3 Merchant Vessels attacked by moonlight with bombs vicinity of Ashrafi Reef night 3/4. 2 continuing voyage HARPALYCUS slightly damaged near miss has returned to Suez. U. Boat sighted by R.A.F. in 034° 10' N., 025° 17' East at 1040 steering N.E. has been attacked without result. (C. in C. Med., 2157C/5.) |
| Enemy Convoy. | Small convoy including Schooners with surface and air escort expected in position 264° Benghazi 55 at 1500C/7 on N.E. course. (Capt. S.1, 2225C/5, to THUNDERBOLT.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Djibuti, reprisal for firing on HINDUSTAN. | My 1720/2 re Djibuti passed to you. (i) Minister of State, Middle East, concurs reprisals on line proposed. (ii) Policy passed to C. in C. Red Sea Force for patrol ships who will take immediate action on future occasions. (C. in C. E.I., 0650Z/5 to Admty.) |
| Caspian Sea. | As a result of recent operation in Persia the Line Supply to Caspian Sea will now pass through area controlled by C. in C. East Indies and C. in C. India respectively. I therefore recommend that any projected operation in Caspian Sea should come under C. in C. East Indies. Grateful if an Admiralty appreciation may be signalled. (C. in C. E.I., 0720Z/5 to Admty.) |
| Iraq. | Problems of transport, road, rail and river. (General, Iraq, 0830/5 to W.O.) See Lion Copy. |
| Ex-Enemy Ships, Persian Gulf. | Admty. 2344A/29 and your 1500Z/31. WILDENFELS, MARIENFELS, STURMFELS and Ex Italian ship HILDA on arrival Karachi should be handed over together with affidavits of seizure to Local Detaining Officer for Prize proceedings. CABOTO, BARBARA and BRONTE in tow should be handed over for Prize proceedings at Karachi or Bombay whichever more convenient. Govt. of India have been instructed by India Office to arrange with representative of M. of W.T. for early requisitioning of the ships out of Prize. Waiver of any right possessed by Persian Govt. to reclaim vessels captured in their waters is being included in Persian Armistice negotiations. As an additional precaution Govt. of India will be asked to bring Prize proceedings to judgment as expeditiously as possible. (Head of M. 1918A/5 to C. in C.E.I.) |
| Iran. | Summary of Naval, Military and Air requirements forwarded by F.O. to Ambassador, Teheran. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2005A/5 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N. amended S.N.O.R.S., 0807Z/7). See Lion Copy. |
| Red Sea Anchorages. | Your 1632Z/2. Request particulars of anchorage F and also E if such an anchorage exists. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2206A/5 to S.N.O.R.S.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

MOORLAKE. — Your 0608/4. I am concerned about this continued absence of MOORLAKE from China Station where she is urgently needed as since loss of BUFFALO no mooring vessel is available either at Singapore or Hong Kong. I should be glad if you would return MOORLAKE to me at the earliest possible date. (C. in C. China, 0843Z/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

Japanese Shipping. — Intelligence Report. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0842Z/5) See Lion Copy.

MARECHAL JOFFRE ) — Left, Haiphong 8/9. (Manila 0610Z/5 to M.of W.T.)

CAP TOURANE SI-KIANG (French). — Arrival. (Saigon, 1041Z/5 to D. of S.T.)

ROGGEVEEN (Dutch). — Your 1820/3. My 204/30 was to Fairmiss to whom on authority your 1835/13/3 and 1406/13/6 routes are not reported. Ship sailed from Cebu and was presumably routed by N.C.S.O. Manila to whom I am passing your signal. (N.C.S.O. Hong Kong, 1603/5 to Admty.)

ANHUI. — As 20/9 and 23/9 public holiday, suggestion has been made ANHUI should arrive Yokohama about dawn/24. Japanese Authorities ask be informed approx. course ANHUI also particular call signs etc. so that there will be no danger her being molested. (Craigie, Hong Kong to Hong Kong, no T.O.O./5).

Japan. — Policy proposed to avoid war by increasing firmness. (C. in C. Far East 2218/5). See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

Your 1609/2. Request report of anticipated speed of EMPRESS OF ASIA after drydocking. Also how long will be required for turn round in U.K. (D.S.T. 0143A/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

"R" Report 4/9, PORT ADELAIDE.

Following received from Opnav: (repeats B.A.D. 2125R/4)(Spenavo, 0230/5 to Admty. for D.C.)
Your 1039 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. A. and W. I. repeated S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) from N.C.S.O. -Panama. PORT ADELAIDE arrived Balboa 1548/4 Z + 5 reports as follows: At 1320 Z + 5 distinctly heard 4 Q's then silence. From strength of signals estimate distance 300 miles, direction not obtainable, (ends). U.S. Naval Authority inform me 4 planes leaving Cristobal daylight/5, to search 600 miles radius from Balboa 2251/4. Above only information available.
(N.C.S.O. Panama, 0720/5 to Admty.)
B.A.D. Washington 2125R/4. 4 U.S. aircraft leave Cristobal daylight/5 to search area 600 miles radius from Balboa. (C. in C. A.W.I., 08520/5 to Cdre. W.I., PRINCE HENRY).
My 2251/4 repeated to Admty. in my 0720/5. Following additional information; three sets of four Qs. distinctly heard, broken off suddenly on last repeat, interrupted continuous wave with modulations, frequency approx 1000 metres. U.S. Naval Authorities inform me U.S. Destroyer BORIE at 0900/5 in 006° N. 080° W. U.S. Destroyers BARRY, GOFF on Galapagos Islands station. On 10/9, two U.S. light (?cruisers) will be in 005° S. 100° 02.
(N.C.S.O., Panama, 1531/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
B.A.D. Washington's 2125R/4. DESPATCH reports British ship SURREY made an incomplete raider distress message at 1320R/4 on sighting PRINCE HENRY in 004° 40' S. 084° 25' W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 22320/5 to Admty.).

ORION.

Arrived Mare Island, San Francisco.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0745Z/5).

ASCANIA.

Following is a repetition of my 1031P/4.
(begins) Your 1541A/21. Intend to sail ASCANIA as escort for HX 1 ? 49 proceeding to U.K. with Clyde portion to give leave. T.O.O. 1031P/4 (ends). (R.A.3., 1018P/5 to Admty.)

/CARADOC.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941. Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

CARADOC. Intend to sail CARADOC from Bermuda for Halifax 12/9 for deperming and D.G. ranging and quick docking for bottom cleaning. C.O.A.C. Halifax concurs. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/5 to Admty. etc.) Date amended, see 2232/8.

Suspicious Ship, 31/8. St.Lucia reports British Ship at 0800/31/8 in 008.00 N. 047.00 W. sighted ship on course 135° 12 knots, about 500 feet long, Cruiser stern, 2 Masts, 8 Samson posts, funnel and hull black, upperworks masts white, no display nationality, no gun, general appearance German similar latest Hansa Line FELS. Name own ship awaited. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1026R/5 to Admty. etc.) Name British ship BENREOCH.(S.O.I. Jamaica 1526R/6).

Corvettes Trinidad Your 1321/4. Essential that corvettes be fitted with W/T type F.R.12 or similar type. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1030Q/5 to Admty.) Reply: 2007/8.

DIOMEDE. Leave Bermuda on completion of practices P.M./6 and proceed to Trinidad via Sombrero Channel, adjusting speed so as to arrive 1800Q/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/5 to DIOMEDE).

DIOMEDE, flag of C. in C. Intend to transfer my flag to DIOMEDE P.M./6 and carry out following programme. Leave Bermuda 6/9 arrive Trinidad 9/9 leave Trinidad 12/9 arrive Bermuda 15/9. Request messages requiring my immediate personal attention may be addressed DIOMEDE, remainder to Bermuda as usual. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1104Q/5 to Admty. etc.)

Anti-Raider Operations. DIOMEDE and oilers. Reply to Admty. 1902A/30. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1112Q/5) See Operations Vol.

VAN KINSBERGEN. Your 1845A/4. Request B.N.L.O. may be appointed to VAN KINSBERGEN before leaving U.K. No suitable officer available on A. & W.I. Station. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1144Q/5 to Admty.)

U.S. S.E. Pacific Force. My 1222Q/2 part 1. amend (B) to read 005° 00' S. 095° 00' W. Add (c) 005° 30' S. 100° 00' W. thence south on meridian 100° 00' W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1213Q/5 to S.O.W.I. Force).

/CHAMBLY.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| CHAMBLY and MOOSEJAW. | Intend to sail at 1500Z/5 for training cruise. Corvettes will proceed 12 knots and be in the vicinity of S.C. 42 in approx. 030° W. on 9/9 returning thence St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 15/9. Corvettes will be in the vicinity of O.N. 12 or O.N. 13 during return journey. (C.C.N.F., 1409Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.) |
| LE TRIOMPHANT. | Sailed San Diego 4/9 1200, due Honolulu 12/9 0700. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1453/5 to Admty.) |
| Communications. | Between ships on one side of Atlantic and those on other. Reply to Admty. 1730/23; (B.A.D., 1655R/5 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| Diversions. | Diversions of shipping to avoid U/boats. 2-letter group code to be used. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1748A/5 to Opnav). See Lion Copy. |
| U.S. Forces, Convoy Escorts. | Re escort of high speed convoys. (Spenavo, 1752/5 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume). (B.A.D. 1825R/5 to Admty. (See Operations Volume.) Amended, see 1345R/6. |
| St. John's N.F. | Installation of I.F.F. beacon by R.A.F. (D.S.D., 1904A/5). |
| Brazil. | Negotiations re transfer of fighting equipment. (B.A.S.R., 2051/5 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| U.S. Tankers. | For Operations D.C. Following received from Opnav. At 2100 G.C.T./6. Following ships depart for Reykjavik from New York, speed 10, U.S. Tanker T.H. WHEELER, CITY OF ROANOKE, CITY OF DALLAS, will take following route. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 2100/5 to Admty.) Position G amended (Spenavo, 1009/9). |

/U.S.N.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

U.S.N. and Routeing. Your 1256/3 to Admty. (N.T. in W.R. see 1259/7) Procedure outlined in Admty. 1401/6/8 was dictated by Navy Dept's. insistance that route shall be approved by 12th Naval District and subsequently given to ship by U.S. Naval Observer. It is not considered advisable or useful to reopen question. Usual Vesca reporting system will be employed after route has been approved. (B.A.D. 2103R/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

NEWCASTLE. Is NEWCASTLE still to act as additional escort to DURBAN CASTLE from Trinidad to R/V with A/S escort or is she to proceed to Boston from Trinidad? (C. in C. A.W.I., 22220/5 to Admty.) Reply 1649/6.

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

EINVIK. Following has been read. SSSS 60.38 N. 31.18 W. EINVIK torpedoed. (Iceland W/T. T.O.R. 0530/5.)
Following from O.i/c Resolution Island (begins) 0534 G.M.T. S.S. EINVIK torpedoed 60.38 N. 30.18 W. (Ends) (Ottawa 0828Z/5 to Admty.)
Note difference in position. EINVIK, Norwegian, 2000 tons, straggler from S.C.41 (D.O.R. 6/9.)
Detach one Corvette to assistance of EINVIK torpedoed at 0530A/5 in 60° 38' N. 31° 18' W. ship detached to report name when well clear of convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 0721A/5 to NIAGARA.)
Your 0721A/5. HONEYSUCKLE. (HONEYSUCKLE, 0931Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0721/5. Aircraft has searched the area and seen nothing. Visibility 30 miles. (A.C.I.C., 1711/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceeded (?), area of oil in position indicated. Slight wreckage and no survivors have been found. Am searching the area. (HONEYSUCKLE, 2050Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

? KIRKLAND (torpedoed 1/9.) Polish marine informs me that fishing vessel has landed Tarifa at (7 groups missed) (possibly KIRKLAND) torpedoed 1/9 100 miles West Spartel. Survivors British, Belgians, Poles. Consul Seville to take necessary steps for transfer to Gibraltar and inform Ambassador. (N.A. Madrid, 1115/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FORT RICHEPANSE (torpedoed 3/9.) Arrived PIORUN and GARLAND with 27 survivors from S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1346A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

### Submarines Reported.

2246/4. Bearings at 2246 G.M.T. of Italian U-Boat 88 N. (D.D.I.C. 0016A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0850 G.M.T./4 C.C. Loanda's 1416/4. If this was a submarine, consider possibly French looking for GAZCON. (C. in C. S.A., 1205N/5 to Admty.)

/1400 A. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.9.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - contd.

1400 A. 8th Escort Group 1400A/5 situation. MALCOLM SARDONY WATCHMAN sweeping for U-boat in vicinity A/C M 0735A/4 report. WATCHMAN proceeding to Iceland for fuel 1800A/5. MALCOLM SARDONY proceeding to meet S.C.41 by 0600A/6. Corvettes and trawlers in company with S.C.41. No A/S contacts obtained. (S.O. Escort Group 8, 1428A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1440A/5.)

Submarines Attacked.

By ISAAC SWEERS. E.T.A. Needles 1800A/5. A/S contact at 1445 position 003° 19' West 050° 15' North attacked with 1 pattern D/C. (ISAAC SWEERS 1530A/5 to N.O.I.C. Southampton.)

By ST.CROIX, etc 3/9, 5/9. C.A.F.O. 854/1941. Following attacks carried out on S/M contacts, no visible result. (A) ST. CROIX 0815Z/3 060° 02' N. 037° 10' W. five charges. (B) BUCTOUCHE 2020Z/3 061° 14' N. 035° 05' W. five charges (C) ST. CROIX 0212Z/5 063° 54' N. 030° 12' W. 12 charges ST. CROIX, 5 charges BUCTOUCHE. -Hunt abandoned in each case under two hours to rejoin convoy. (ST. CROIX, 2306Z/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

By Hudson A/C 27/8. Their Lordships wish to congratulate Coastal Command upon successful attack on a German U-Boat by Hudson A/C S of 269 Sqdn. on 27/8, and request their congratulations may be conveyed to all concerned. (1st S.L. 2022A/5 to C. in C. Coastal Command.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A photographic R/C of Oslo at 1250A today shows the ADMIRAL SCHEER alongside protected by boom defences and 30 M/V's of over 200 feet in the port. No destroyers were seen.

The establishment of A/S defences at Seidisfiord has been approved in principle.

Oerlikon Guns and equipment are to be supplied at once to SHEFFIELD, KENYA, and NIGERIA at Scapa, to EURYALUS at Rosyth, and to HERMIONE at Gibraltar; and SHEFFIELD is to sail on 12/9 for Gibraltar with the necessary mountings for HERMIONE and with Service personnel and a supply of oxygen.

C. in C. Nore can no longer meet the whole of the commitment for Destroyer Escorts for the Channel Convoys, and 2 Destroyers only must therefore be accepted for operation J.R.

During the M.T.B. Patrol off the Belgian Coast last night the M.T.B's. concerned were brilliantly illuminated by star-shells and flares in 51° 21' N. 2° 59' E. and attacked by accurate 4-inch and M.G. fire. They withdrew to the westward however without damage or casualty.

The flying-off of A/C from ARGUS has been postponed until tomorrow morning.

The S/M H.43 and her Escort NORTHERN GEM ran ashore this morning on Dippen Point, Arran Island, but were both re-floated by 2114A without apparent damage to either.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

3 Fortress I A/C attacked ADMIRAL SCHEER at Oslo during daylight today. Bursts were seen on the Piperviken Harbour, on the Drams Fiord, and among small craft.
Photographs of Oslo and Oslo Fiord were taken.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Paddle Minesweeper GLEN AVON was slightly damaged by a near miss off the Tyne early this morning and returned to harbour; and it is reported today that the Dutch Government's TON 8 was attacked and damaged at 2330A/4 by a Flying Boat in 52° 58' N. 40° 55' W.

Convoy "Pattern" (E.C.70) was attacked at 2010 today off Yarmouth, and the British Tanker STANMOUNT was damaged by a near miss.

The British ABBAS COMBE, 489 Tons, is reported today to have been sunk by a direct hit at 0015/4 about 6 miles West of Bardsey Island, 7 survivors being landed at Dublin.

Mining.

The M/S Trawler STRATHBORVE was mined and sunk off the Humber at about 1330 today.

AGAMEMNON and CASTLETON left Port ZA at 2317A for a minelaying operation off Cape Wrath.

The operation Q.K.7 was successfully completed off the Belgian Coast last night.

3 Mines were detonated by Sweepers today off the Humber.

/Sunderland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining-Contd.

Sunderland was closed at 1310 owing to suspected minelaying, but was re-opened at 1750; and the ports of Tees and Hartlepool will in future be opened daily as requisite from 1200 to 1800, when vessels will be swept in and out.

Shipping and Convoys.

As C. in C. Nore can no longer meet all Channel Convoy commitments, Nore and Portsmouth are each to provide one destroyer to escort C.W.49.

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, in C.T.2, returned to Clyde shortly after midnight last night with engine trouble. She was to have proceeded Halifax to lift military personnel in WARWICK CASTLE, damaged in collision in W.S.10 on 7/8.

WESTON reported at 0700A today that no ships in S.L. 84 had P/V's working. 5 ships were so fitted and inquiry is to be made on their arrival.

Fighter catapult ships are not to be sailed with a convoy escorted by AUDACITY auxiliary aircraft carrier. Operation orders to AUDACITY are given in C. in C. Western Approaches 1112A/6.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Convoy.

Admty. suggested that the suspicious convoy sighted by PHILANTE in 32.52 N., 22.32 W. at 2100 Z/4 might have been O.S.4, but F.O.C.N.A. points out that this convoy was over 200 miles away if positions given by GORLESTON and PHILANTE were correct. A Catalina sent to search this morning had to be recalled owing to probable fog at Gibraltar. The identity of the Convoy thus remains in doubt. DUNEDIN, on completion of fuelling is to proceed towards Grand Canary in case it should be an enemy force proceeding to capture the Canaries. Another possibility is that the Convoy is French.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship. An unknown British ship reports that at 0800/31 in 08° N., 47° W., she sighted a ship of German appearance similar to the latest Hansa line FELS.

Mediterranean.

Fast Supply Ships. Details of the arrangements made to supply C. in C. Mediterranean with some fast supply ships were communicated by the Admiralty today.

Salvage Vessels. C. in C. Mediterranean calls attention to the importance of salvage vessels in his command. Compared to our lack of salvage appliances and personnel, the Italians have salved 2 ships at Suda Bay already and 2 at Benghazi.

Malta. 3 aircraft last night dropped bombs in the sea and on Gozo causing slight damage but no casualties.

Aircraft Operations. An enemy convoy 20 miles N. of Pantellaria was attacked by 7 Swordfish at 2246/6. One M/V of 6000 tons received 3 hits and was considered bound to sink, another of 6000 tons of tanker type was torpedoed twice and is claimed as damaged.

Egypt and Suez Canal. About 9 enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria last night. No service damage or casualties, but a barge was sunk in harbour and Sidi Gaba railway station was damaged. There is a U.X.B. in a naval stores shed at Arsenal Quay and 4 U.X.B's on shore. WOOLWICH, MAINE and KANDAHAR suffered slight damage from near misses, and there were some casualties.
About 14 enemy aircraft raided Ismailia aerodrome causing some damage, but the war effort is not affected. 1 enemy A/C dropped 4 bombs on Port Said without damage.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

Wellingtons and Blenheims bombed Derna, Bardia and other enemy landing grounds last night.

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping at the Spanish Quay, Tripoli, and claimed 3 hits on a medium M/V and many on the quay.

Cyprus.

Enemy aircraft bombed Strongylo and Kythrea last night without damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Vizagapatam.

C. in C. East Indies advocates the development of Vizagapatam as an alternative embarkation port, despite opposition by the War Office on grounds that adequate protection cannot be afforded to a third port.

REPULSE.

On the arrival of REPULSE at Durban with Convoy W.S.11, she is to join East Indies Station.

China.

Indo-China.

The text of the agreement between Admiral Decoux and Japanese General Sumita on the occupation of Indo-China is given by C. in C. America and West Indies in a message today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

C. in C. America and West Indies, who had hoisted his flag in DIOMEDE, left Bermuda tonight for a visit to Trinidad.

U-Boat Campaign.

U.73. sunk.

The Soviet naval authorities claim to have sunk U.73 off Cape Kanim today. A lifebuoy was recovered.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.41.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Flag of R.A.M.**

My flag has been transferred to PORT QUEBEC today. (R.A.M. 1027A/6).

**CAP DES PALMES.**

Your 2134A/5. CAP DES PALMES sailed in convoy O.S.5 in accordance with A.M. 1810A/28 pending decision on conversion in U.S.A. referred to in A.L. M/O.D. 1016/41 of 4th August.
2. When port and date are forthcoming further orders will be issued. (D.O.D. F. 1142A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

**A/S Trawlers required for V.A. C.T.C.**

My 1511A/2 and Admiralty 2157A/5. Four A/S trawlers will also be required to meet V.A.C.T.C. requirement now being temporarily covered by KOS 20. (C. in C. W.A. 1232A/6 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

**SHEFFIELD.
KENYA.
NIGERIA.
HERMIONE.
EURYALUS.
Oerlikon Guns.**

Your 1436A/4. It is intended to fit SHEFFIELD, KENYA and NIGERIA at Scapa. Latter ship only requires 2 equipments to complete. To enable dates to be kept request immediate delivery of 14 complete Oerlikon equipments and ammunition to Scapa. My 1128A/6 asks for 6 equipments for EURYALUS to be delivered to Rosyth. (C. in C. H.F. 1346A/6 to Adty.)

**U.S.A. Atlantic Fleet.**

My 1934A/4. Western Hemisphere Defence Plan No. 4 is the plan referred to under Para. D. of my 1614A/28/8. (V.C.N.S. 1423/6).

### Defence of U.K.

**Seidisfiord A/S Defences.**

In view of increased use of Seidisfjord it is approved in principle to establish A/S defences probably consisting of indicator loops and indicator nets. (V.C.N.S. 1326A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

**Amateur fishing in Portsmouth Command.**

Amateur fishing may now be allowed in the Portsmouth Command. Conditions and permits. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1734A/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements.

SHEFFIELD for Gibraltar.

It is intended to sail SHEFFIELD for Gibraltar leaving Clyde p.m. 12.
2. Request you sail her for Clyde accordingly.
3. SHEFFIELD will be required to embark 300 Service personnel at the Clyde and the Oerlikon mountings for HERMIONE at Scapa. (A.C.N.S. H. 0035A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
A.M. 0035A/6. Supply of oxygen is urgently required at Gibraltar. Report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 726/41, paragraph one C. and D. only.
3. Additional rafts and inflatable lifejackets for 300 passengers should be drawn from N.S.O. Greenock. (D.O.D. F. 1525A/6 to SHEFFIELD).

PARTHIAN.

My 1856A/1. Para. 2, for 0100/12 read 2200/8 and for 1200/15 read 2200/10. (Capt. S.5. 1011A/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Sailed in accordance with my 1728A/5. E.T.A. Bermuda 14/9. (F.O.I. C. Greenock 1436A/6).

TRUSTY.
SOKOL.

Sailed TRUSTY escorted by BREDA in accordance with S.3's 1831A/4, 5½ hours late.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1438A/6).
TRUSTY passes Bishop Rock at 2200A/7. Routed as follows to pass 43° N. 10° 40' W. at about 1700A/10.
SOKOL leaves Portsmouth 1530A/7 routed as follows to pass 43° N. 10° 20' W. at about 0200A/12.
(F.O.S. 2256A/6 to TAKU).

### Operations.

Northern Operations.

A.M. 1330A/4. para. 3 and 4. Force "M" will not now be able to co-operate in this operation.
2. Submarine restrictions in A.M, 1359A/4 should however remain in force until otherwise ordered.
3. Fly off of BENEDICT aircraft is postponed until a.m./7. (A.C.N.S.H. 0003A/6 to Ad. Miles)
Your 0532A/6. ANTHONY and ICARUS will proceed direct to Clyde with EMPRESS OF CANADA.
(ICARUS 1000A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 1009C/5. Route for return of "Dervish" Convoy. (D.O.D. H. 1849A/6 to Ad. Miles).
See Operations Volume.
Your 1736C/6. Limitation imposed in A.M. 1359A/4 must, in order to give "Force A" freedom of movement, remain in force from 1600A/8 until completion of that Force's operations 1200A/9. Unless orders are received to the contrary TIGRIS may however resume operating in the original patrol area ordered by S.B.N.O. Murmansk after 1200A/9. (A.C.N.S.H. 2303A/6 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations-Contd.

**Operation J.R.**

C. in C. Nore can no longer meet the whole of the Channel Convoy commitment. Two destroyers only must therefore be accepted for Operation J.R. (D.O.D. H. 0048A/6);

**M.T.B. Patrol Report.**

Following received from BEEHIVE. Your 1126A/4. M.T.B. patrol carried out as ordered from Kwinte Bank Buoy which was in position and lit. East Ostend Bank Whistle Buoy and Wenduyne Bank Bell Buoy not sighted. On breaking off patrol small conical buoy was sighted in 51° 21' N. 2° 59' E. On closing to investigate large red flare bursting to three green stars was seen in direction 100° from Buoy. Boats were illuminated by starshell and flares. This was followed by accurate gunfire from weapons varying between four inch and machine guns. Owing to continued accuracy of ranging boats withdrew to Westward. No casualties or damage sustained. 1010A/6 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 1220A/6).

### British Air Activity.

**A/C for Russia.**

Fly-off of BENEDICT aircraft is postponed until A.M./7th. (A.C.N.S.H. 0003A/6 to Ad. Miles). See also C.S.1. 1042/6, 1954/6, 2321/6, C. in C. H.F. 1256A/6, A.C.N.S.H. 1518A/6, 1749A/6, No. 151 Wing 1800C/6, D.O.D.H. 1840A/6, and D.C. 2250A/6.

**A/C from Archangel.**

British Catalina expects to leave Archangel for U.K. about 1700Z/7. (D.O.D.H. 0027A/6).

**Patrols.**

"Fate V" in operation 0845/6 until 1545/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/6).
Oslo, Horten, Kristiansand P.R.U. in operation. (C, in C. Rosyth 1014/6).
"Stand" and "North" "Stab" now being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

GLEN AVON damaged. — (Paddle Minesweeper) Slightly damaged by near miss. Returned to harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0540/6).

TON S. (Dutch, 466 Tons) bombed on 4/9. — At 2330A/4 in 52° 58' N. 40° 55' W, forecastle damaged by one bomb from one Flying Boat. No casualties. (N.O.I. C. Newport 1049A/6).

Convoy E.C.70. STANMOUNT (British Tanker, 4468 Tons) damaged. — Departure tug DIVERSION at 2159A to assist STANMOUNT in distress vicinity 54D buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2004A/6).
Convoy "Pattern" is being attacked by aircraft in 52° 38' N. 2° 10' E. (VERSATILE 2010/6).
STANMOUNT damaged, unable to steam. Request tugs. Position 54.D. buoy. (VERSATILE 2030A/6).
STANMOUNT damaged near miss bomb. Tugs probably not required. TANGO detailed to stand by. Intend making for Humber. (GARTH 2043/6).
A/C still bombing. (VERSATILE 2113/6).
2 tugs proceeding to STANMOUNT now. (C. in C. Nore 2123A/6).
Your 2043. Tugs are proceeding. STANMOUNT is to proceed to Humber only if you are satisfied she is seaworthy, otherwise to Yarmouth Roads. If tugs not required report to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2247A/6 to GARTH).
Departure Tug KROOMAN to assist STANMOUNT. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2312A/6).

ABBAS COMBE. (British, 489 Tons) sunk. — Sunk by direct hit at 0015/4 about 6 miles West of Bardsey Island. 7 survivors landed at Dublin. (D.S. 733).

### Mining.

Operation Q.K.7. — Arrivals M.L's 106, 105, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0810A/6).
Following from BEEHIVE. Q.K.7 carried out in position ordered. 0911/6/9 ends. (C. in C. Nore 1121A/6).

Tees. Hartlepool. — Ports of Tees and Hartlepool will be opened daily as requisite between 1200 and 1800. Vessels will be swept in and out. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1050/6).

/Sunderland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunderland. | Port closed owing to suspected mine laying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1310/6).<br>Port opened. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1750/6). |
| STRATHBORVE (M/S Trawler) Sunk. | At about 1330 today Trawler STRATHBORVE mined and sunk near H.10 buoy. Eleven survivors picked up by Trawler FITZGERALD. (F.O. Humber 1525A/6).<br>Wreck approx 253° Humber L.V. 2.5 miles. (F.O. Humber 1629A/6). |
| East of Faroes. | F.O. 10th C.S. 1746/5. para 6. Request any further details which will assist in establishing presence of an enemy minefield in this position. (C. in C. H.F. 1716A/6 to R.A.M.) |
| Operation S.N. 23A. | Clyde arrival NEWARK. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1727A/6). |
| Humber. | Following three Mines detonated by L.L. Sweepers to-day. Details. (F.O. Humber 1845A/6). |
| Firth of Forth. | My 1115/21/8. Daily sweep of suspected area since 21/8, together with final clearance sweeps for all types of mines, has proved negative. Request QZY 259 may be cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 2231/6). |
| Operation S.N. 61. | Departure AGEMEMNON and CASTLETON. (N.O.I.C. PortZ.A. 2317A/6). |

### Enemy Intelligence.

| | |
|---|---|
| Oslo. ADMIRAL SCHEER. Stavanger Fiord. | Photographs at 1250/6 show ADMIRAL SCHEER lying at South side of Utstikker one, on West side of Bjorviken. Berth completely protected by Boom defences connecting Utstikkers one and 2. No other Naval Units present. 30 M/V's over 200 feet present, including Liner. At Stavanger Fjord S.Y. STELLA POLARIS, one cargo Liner 500 feet, and 8 vessels 400 to 500 feet. (P.R.U. Wick 1945/6) (D.D.I.C. 2240A/6). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties and Defects.

BRORA. (A/S Trawler) Struck rock at Leading Beacon to Obbe of Harris. Full crew have been landed. Tug MARAUDER will be sent at first light. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0039A/6).
Crew of BRORA landed. Tug proceeding to assist. Rejoin Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 0047A/6 to SABRE).
Representative of Glasgow firm reports salvage of BRORA unlikely. All Officers and crew arrived Stornoway. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1640A/6).

H.43. NORTHERN GEM. Tugs SUPERMAN from Campbeltown and ST. OLAVES from Ardrossan are being sent to your assistance now. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0929A/6 to H.43.)
Sailed SUPERMAN. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0955/6).
Admiralty Salvage representative is proceeding to your assistance now; (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015A/6 to H.43).
Submarine H.43. Refloated. NORTHERN GEM still aground on Dippen Point, Arran Island. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1023A/6).
H.43 and NORTHERN GEM refloated without damage. NORTHERN GEM floated on own power just before salvage tugs arrived. Ships are proceeding to destination as weather permits. (N.O.I.C. Lamlash 1305/6).
Both vessels refloated. Following apparent damage. H.43 Nil. NORTHERN GEM dome end oscillator lost. (Capt. S.7 2114A/6).

BRADFORD. My 1004A/3/9. Delayed 24 hours owing to defects. (C. in C. Nore 1224A/6).

KUWI. (Dutch Coaster). Has put into Milford Haven for engine repairs. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1658/6).

T.L.C. 107. My 1832/6. T.L.C. 107 has engine defects and is unable to sail as arranged. (N.O.I.C. Methil 2130/6).

MY DREAM. Your 1055/6. Arrived 1930/6 with engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2203/6 to L.N.O. Salcombe).

BRITISH VALOUR. (Tanker) Refloated at 1735. Now anchored clear of Shambles. Proceeding to Portland tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Portland 2255A/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.W.49. Nore and Portsmouth to provide one destroyer each as C. in C. Nore can no longer meet whole Channel convoy commitment. (D.O.D. (H) 0048A/6).

D.S.11.
C.T.2. D.S.11 and C.T. 2 returned to Clyde 0045/6.
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has engine trouble. Starboard engine not functioning, full details will be forwarded when ascertained. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 0050A/6, to D. of S.T.)
My 0050/6, position C.S.16 arrived Tail O'the Bank at 0009/6. K.11 and C.1 not yet arrived at anchorage as delayed by fog. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 0945A/6).
Sailed D.S.11 consisting of LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by NEWARK and CHARLESTOWN. Codeword "Product". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2026A/6 to Admty.)

S.L.84. E.T.A. Minefield 1200A/6 EMPIRE GUNNER has no paravane. Is straggler to be escorted to Oban? (ST. ALBANS, 0235A/6 to WANDERER).
No ships in S.L. 84 have P/Vs working. In the absence of further orders am proceeding on route orders. (WESTON 0700A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0235A/6 to WANDERER. Proceed with EMPIRE GUNNER as in my 1429/4. Further signal will be made regarding destination. (C. in C. W.A. 0844A/6 to ST. ALBANS).
S.L. 84. My 0844A/6. Special escort is unnecessary after passing Skerries.
(C. in C. W.A. 1030A/6 to ST. ALBANS).

W.S.11X. Date of sailing and details. (A.C.N.S. H., 1011A/6) See Lion Copy.

ESSA. Your 1739A/5. No news of ESSA (Panamanian).
(N.C.S.O. Iceland 1049/6 to Admty.)
W.D. Note:- Was torpedoed 17/8, see 1009/8/9.

F.C. Ships, AUDACITY. My 1715A/19/8 and my 1614A/29/8. Fighter catapult ships are not to be sailed with a convoy escorted by AUDACITY. If this results in any fighter catapult ships being delayed for an undue period in harbour between operations with Gibraltar convoys, F.O.I.C. Belfast is to inform C. in C. W.A. who will decide whether to operate the F.C. ship concerned with an O.S. convoy or to sail her as a second additional fighter catapult ship with an O.G. convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1110A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
Operation Orders to AUDACITY. (-C. in C. W.A. 1112A/6) See Lion Copy.

/Indship.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Indship Tables.

My 2005A/16/8. If necessary to communicate with Naval Authorities, British merchant ships holding Indship Tables should now use them in all areas except Area 2. Written instructions to Masters should be amended accordingly. (D.T.D. 1221A/6 to A.I.G. 26 and 19).

Northbound Convoys.

Forecast of sailings from Southend.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1500/6) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

PHILANTE, Convoy, suspicious.

PHILANTE's 1241Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.). Convoy reported by PHILANTE in 032° 52' N., 022° 32' W., at 2100 Z/4 steering southerly course cannot be identified. Catalina searching.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0704/6 to Admty).

O.S.4 (?)

Your 0704/6 request repetition of PHILANTE's 1241Z/5 observing that O.S. 4 might have been in the vicinity if it had made good eight knots.
(D.C., 1005A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
F.O.C.N.A.'s 0704/6. Break W/T silence to give details of Convoy reported in your 1241Z/5 if you think it was suspicious. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1051A/6 to PHILANTE).
Your 1005A/6. O.S. 4 was over 200 miles away if positions in GORLESTON's 1345/4, 0830Z/5 and PHILANTE 1241Z/5 were correct. (F.O.C.N.A., 1142A/6 to Admty).
My 0704A/6 Catalina recalled owing to probability of fog at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1204A/6 to Admty).
F.O.C.N.A.'s 0704/6. Convoy consists of eight ships and does not appear to be O.S.4. On completion of fuelling proceed with despatch towards Grand Canary in case convoy should be enemy proceeding to capture Canaries. Possible convoy is French, in which case if met shadow and report. R.F.A. RAPIDOL to continue in accordance with previous orders.
(V.C.N.S. 1727A/6 to DUNEDIN) (See also DUNEDIN 1906Z/6 in U-boat Campaign.)
Could any ships of O.S.4 have been Convoy of 8 ships reported by PHILANTE in position 32.52 N., 22.30 W., at 2100Z/4. If so break W/T silence to report. (V.C.N.S., 1728A/6 to GORLESTON).
Your 1032/1 not previously received. Speed of convoy 7¾ knots from 1930 G.M.T.
(PHILANTE, 2033A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

NELSON.

Your 1524/21. Request all outstanding Naval stores for NELSON be available for embarkation on arrival U.K. Ship is stored to 30/9 only.
(S.O. Force H., 0948A/6 to Admty).

PROTEUS, TAKU.

(1) Report P.C. and S. of A on entering North Atlantic station (ii)Onward route position (P) 037' 40' 011° 30' (?Q) 036° 35' 009° 00' (R) 350° SPARTEL 10 for inward escort. (iii) TAKU estimated p.c. and s. at 1200A/7, 039° 46' 010° 26', 005° 9 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/6 to PROTEUS).

/KOS 17.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

KOS 17.
KOS 19.

Your 0908/3. (F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0908/3 intended) and your 1321/4 Portuguese Naval Authorities have raised point contained in Naval Prize Manual Convention 13 page 109 para 20. They plead ships should either call themselves KOS 17 and KOS 19 unless names are very legible or that the ship should put in without official notification on account of breakdown or stress of weather. Request early information which suggestion adopted. (N.A.Lisbon, 1130/6 to Admty).

WILD SWAN.

When VIMY and CROOME have joined H.G.73 you are to proceed to Ponta Delgada and complete fuel. (F.O.C.N.A., 1344A/6 to WILD SWAN).

Ammunition.

Your 2036A/5. Ammunition will accompany gun. (D.G.D., 1548A/6 to C.S. Gibraltar).

Reported U/B in Rio Strait.

Your 1730/2 (?) to Admiralty. Report most reliable source states no engine or spare engine parts for submarine in CONTREMAESTRE CASADO. All cargo military stores for island including generaton (N.A., Madrid, 1740/6 to Consul Las Palmas).

CANADA.

Gibraltar 1252 French Hospital Ship CANADA eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1803A/6 to Admty etc).

Gibraltar.

Suggested trial. (W.O., 1815/6 to Govr., Gib.,) See Operations Volume.

South Atlantic.

W.S.11.

List, full requirements. (D.S.T., 0333A/6 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

/ALBATROSS.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ALBATROSS, GAZCON. ALBATROSS reports GAZCON was not sighted and coast was not searched other than as stated in his 2155/31 (N.T. in W.R.) (C. in C. S.A., 1101N/6 to BULOLO).

W.S.11. Ref. A.M.1801/4, as BARRISTER and MANCHESTER PROGRESS are coal burners it is proposed that they should replenish at Durban instead of Capetown. Para 11 should be amended accordingly. -(D.O.D. (F) 1223A/6 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE ATTENDANT. Overdue shipping, cancel My 1112/5. EMPIRE ATTENDANT arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1225B/6 to Admty etc).

Suspicious Ship. Unknown British Ship reports at 0800/31 in 008° N., 047° W., sighted ship on course 135° 12 knots (details) General appearance German similar to latest Hansa line FELS. (D.O.D. (F) 1650A/6 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D., S.O. Force F).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. Your 0942Q/1 and Admty. 1555T/31. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be available as escort from 40° W., (date). Intend DUCHESS OF ATHOLL shall proceed direct to Capetown from Trinidad without calling at Freetown to arrive Capetown (date). Request ship be routed and R/V with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE arranged accordingly. C. in C. E.I., is requested to state whether arrangements for onward escort can be made from Capetown or whether vicinity of Durban would be preferred. (C. in C. S.A., 1801N/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FORTUN STELLA. My 1719/30 (Ex Italian vessels taken over by Argentine) and 1953/2, add FORTUN STELLA which arrived Buenos Aires 2/9.
(Head of M., 1927A/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

Force F. On completion of fuelling proceed through H.34 C, I.34 A then roughly along line(s) between the centre of I.34 and centre of J.35 then to St. Helena for fuel where avaition spirit is available also if required. CALENDULA and ECHODALE to remain neighbourhood of (?Zara) until P.M./10 when further orders will be sent in case other information makes it desirable that Force F should fuel in Northern instead of Southern Area. (C. in C. S.A., 2037N/6 to S.O. Force F).

/158.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

158 M/S Group.

Your, 1534B/2, para (C) 158th M/S Group consists of CORDELIA, NORSE, LORINDA (Lost at Sea) and LORD IRWIN (due Walvis Bay 15/8). Request information of subsequent movements of LORD IRWIN. (C. in C. S.A., 2135N/6 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

Fast Supply Ships.

Your 1125C/15 and 1350C/20. Arrangements are now in hand to meet your requirements with the following ships:- (a) White Ensign, ANTWERP, MALINES, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA.
(b) Red Ensign. SHUNTIEN, PRINCE BADOUIN, PRINCESS KATHLEEN, PRINCESS MARGUERITE.
2. Princess Ships are being fitted as cased petrol carriers in Canada.
3. In addition HARBOE JENSEN, (details) will be sent from U.S.A. to E. Med., as soon as possible. M. of W.T. propose to retain Norwegian crew in this ship. 4. We assume the above will meet your requirements.
5. Future employment of TANG LEUM is under consideration. Commodore Hong Kong's 1852I/18 refers. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0118A/6 to C. in C. Med).

Port T.

Your 1330/23. It is intended to use one GLEN ship for part of M.N.B.D.O. move to anchorage T leaving Suez about 20/9 and returning to Suez about 3 weeks later. (C. in C. Med., 1040C/6 to Admty).

Suez Raids.

Main enemy attack on Suez night 4/5, directed against shipping anchorage but caused no damage. Possible that mines were also dropped. Some bombs fell in town killing 1 Officer 29 Soldiers of Egyptian army and wounding 38 others. Railway Marshalling Yard for traffic Suez-Ataka hit but single line traffic resumed on 5/9. Night 5/6, about 14 enemy aircraft bombed Ismailia aerodrome. No casualties.

/U/B attacked.....

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean. - Contd.

U/B Attacked. Day 5/9 Blenheim on sea R/C attacked Italian Submarine 170 miles North of Sollum 4 bombs bursting 10 yards from Target. No visible damage. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1048/6).

RANGITIKI, ARONDA. Your 0349A/5/9 (7) and 1651A/28/8. Confirm RANGITIKI, is proceeding Suez. Is ARONDA proceeding Suez, if not request destination. (P.S.T.O., Egypt, 1146/6 to D. of S.T.)

Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0315 to 0430/6. 9 planes shallow dived H.E. bombing. About 20 bombs over wide area, 8 in harbour. Sidi Gaba Railway station and naval stores shed Arsenal Quay hit and contains U.X.B. 4 bombs U.X.B. on shore. 4 civilians killed. Bright moon, some clouds. Defence included night fighters, 2 sighting, no combat. Balloons and searchlights with dispersed beams smoke and barrage fire. (R.A. Alexandria, 1155C/6 to Admty). Damage to warships, see 2334C/6.

Enemy Convoy. 3 Merchant ships 4 destroyers 10 knots latitude 035° 22' 0930/6 E.T.A. (?) Marittimo 0430B/7. (Capt. S.10. 1210B/6 to UNIQUE).
My 1210B/6 convoy was 30 miles South of Pantellaria at 1640. (Capt. S.10 1854B/6 to UNIQUE).

Ismailia and Port Said Raids. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587. (a) Night 5/6 Calm, Clear (b) High level attack by about 14 enemy A/C on Ismailia Aerodrome 2035 to 2251, 12 flares, bright moon (c) H.E. and Incendiary (d) About 60 bombs including 4 in Moascar Camp (e) Fair damage to R.A.F. Buildings, war effort unaffected.
Port Said attacked by 1 enemy A/C 2344 to 0005, 4 bombs. No damage, no casualties.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1325C/6 to Admty etc).

BALCIC (Roumanian). Arrived Trieste, general cargo. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1635C/6 to S.O.(I) Med).

Malta Raid. Night 5/6. 3 aircraft approached Island and dropped few bombs in sea and on Gozo causing slight damage, no casualties. Hurricanes up, no illuminations or engagements.

/Tripoli.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tripoli Bombed. | Night 5/6. 9 Wellingtons attacked shipping Spanish Quay Tripoli 0130 to 0550 hours. 3 hits claimed on medium M/V, many bombs hit the quay. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1660/6). |
| Salvage Vessels. | Importance in Middle East. (C. in C. Med., 1710C/6) See Lion Copy. |
| Vichy Convoys. | Vichy repatriating convoys pass position 180° Gavdo 10 as follows. Westbound convoys Z1. A1. at 1700C/6 and 1900C/9 respectively. Eastbound convoy B.1. at 1000C/8. (Capt. S.1., 1915C/6 to OTUS). |
| OTTO LEONHARDT, German. | Arrival Sagunto 5/9. (Valencia, 2050/6, to M. of W.T.) |
| Black Sea. | N.L.O. (? Black Sea) reports as follows: (A) Strong Soviet forces concentrated against enemy bridgehead (?S) Dnieperpetrovsk and Berislav. Indication that Russians (? preparing) to counter attack. Italian barges being constructed at Varna for attack on Turkey or Batum early October. (C) Large movements Italian (? troops) across Austria to Ukraine and German troops from Roumania to Turkish frontier. Comment. Information fits in with opinion Czech Colonel Paka who tells me to-day that all his information tends to show that Germans are staging an extension of operations from Sicily. (?He has) evidence (? that) at least 1 German Unit has (?gone) south from Roumania in tropical kit. (30 M.M., Moscow, 2205/6 to W.O.) |
| Situation Report 140. | Alexandria. Air raid night 5/6 slight hull (? damage) from near misses to WOOLWICH, Hospital Ship MAINE, and KANDAHAR in addition to damage reported in R.A. Alexandria 1155/6. Casualties, one officer, 4 ratings killed: 15 ratings wounded. 2. Canal area. Air raid see S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1342/5 Canal closed until sweeping complete. 3. NAIAD with 2 destroyers at sea off Alexandria night 6/7 controlling naval aircraft. Object to intercept enemy bombers. (C. in C. Med., 2334C/6 to Admty). |

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.9.1941. Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean. - Contd.

**Enemy Convoy Attacked.**

7 Swordfish attacked a convoy at 2246/6 of 3 medium M/Vs and 3 destroyers northbound 20 M. N., of Pantellaria. 1 M/V of 6000 tons was hit 3 times, violent explosions, seen to fall to port and stop with heavy list, considered bound to sink. A 6,000 ton ship of tanker type hit by 2 torpedoes and claimed as damaged. (D.O.R.8/9).

### East Indies.

**STUART**

Sails from Colombo at 0230Z/7 E.T.A. Keppel Harbour 0900/11 speed 15 knots.
(C. in C. E.I., 0657Z/6 to C. in C. China).

**Shipping.**

A.M.1955/4. MARYMAR and STEEL INVENTOR both received orders direct from New York to proceed to destinations. MARYMAR arrived Colombo 5/9 STEEL INVENTOR due Bombay about 8/9. GIORGIOS G. is at Berbera due to leave 14/9 for Aden.
(S.O.(I) Aden, 0733Z/6 to Admty).

**Vizagapatam.**

Please see telegrams from Defence Dept. Simla to S. of S. for India dated 22/7 and 23/8 advocating development of Vizagapatam to minimum extent to enable it to serve as alternative embarkation -port for Far East if Madras or Calcutta or both are unworkable through enemy action. Scheme is opposed by War Office on grounds that adequate protection cannot be afforded to third port. Experience in U.K. and in Middle East has shown the need for alternative ports, and recommend that W.O. be proposed to withdraw opposition.
(C. in C. E.I., 1202Z/6 to Admty) Text of telegrams 22/7 and 23/8 in Lion Copy.

**W.S.10 India Section.**

Your 1651/29 and 0349/5. Request confirmation RANGITIKI or ARONDA now carrying India personnel ex CAMERONIA. Confirmed STRATHALLAN and BRITANNIC can be docked. (S.S.T.O. India, 1230Z/6 to D. of S.T.)

/REPULSE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

REPULSE. Admty 0028A/28. On arrival of REPULSE at Durban with Convoy W.S.11 (date) REPULSE will join East Indies Station. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1820A/6 to C. in C. China etc).

China.

JOAO DE LISBOA. Your 1700/2. Arrangements made. (C. in C. China, 0322Z/6 to Admty).

COMPIEGNE, CAP TOURANE, LE CONTE DE LISLE. (French). Saigon COMPIEGNE expected to sail for Japan on 7/9. Unconfirmed report that CAP TOURANE and LE CONTE DE LISLE both with repatriated German Legionaries will also sail in Convoy. (C.O.I.S. Far East, 0343Z/6 to Admty etc).

LAMOTTE PIQUET. Your 187 to F.O. Glad if you would remind Adm. Decoux when opportunity offers that Capt. Jouan gave me an assurance at Singapore on 8/5 last that there was no question of sending LAMOTTE PIQUET to Japan to refit; I accepted his assurance and all our subsequent discussions were on this assumption. (C. in C. China, 0515Z/6 to ? Minister, Saigon).

Fuelling Base. Reply to C. in C. China 0431Z/27. (V.C.N.S., 1224A/6) See Operations Volume.

Indo-China. Text of agreement between Decoux and Japanese General Sumita re occupation. See America & West Indies, 1328/6.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.9.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Submarines. Re proposed transfer. (1st S.L., 0117A/6 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

TRUANT. Following is sense my 1131P/6 (N.T. in W.R.) you may meet U.S. Convoy on same course off Cape Race during night 8/9. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1046P/6 to TRUANT).

WINNIPEG. D. of S.T. (1840A/5), has concurred in my proposal to embark remainder of Honduras Unit numbering 169 in WINNIPEG sailing 9/9 for Halifax. I am anxious too to sail naval draft ex QUEEN OF BERMUDA numbering 107 in same vessel as no accommodation for them here and no other opportunity of forward passage in view. I now find WINNIPEG due to foul bottom not likely to make more than 9 to 10 knots, she has mountings but no guns and will probably have to be docked before making Atlantic passage. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1100Q/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1100Q/6. In view of absence of armament and low speed, consider WINNIPEG most unsuitable transport of Honduras unit and Naval drafts. Propose (?ship) be docked and armed in U.S. if possible, and Honduras unit await next opportunity for passage. Naval draft to remain in QUEEN OF BERMUDA and disembark at Bermuda to Await onward passage. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1842Q/6 to D. of S.T.) Reply; 1523/7.

Task Force. 3 Dispositions.
1. MEMPHIS, DAVIS JOUETT, OMAHA and SOMERS at Culebra (Puerto Rico).
2. MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON will return to Pernambuco from Cape Verde Island patrol.
(D.O.D. (F) 1125A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

LE TRIOMPHANT. My 1435/5. Ship returned for deserters 1700/5 departed 0200/6. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1234/6 to Admty).

CALIFORNIA, WOLFE. Your 1437P/4. Concur with your proposal for refit of CALIFORNIA. M. of W.T. will make arrangements for refit of WOLFE. (D.O.D. (H), 1242A/6 to R.A.3).

/WOLFE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.9.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

WOLFE, LACONIA, MALOJA, LETITIA, CHITRAL, RANPURA, HECTOR. — Decided that WOLFE, LACONIA, MALOJA are to be returned forthwith to M. of W.T. in addition to LETITIA.
2. LACONIA will not return to Halifax but will be paid off after arrival in U.K.
3. Further instructions will be given regarding the sailing of WOLFE and MALOJA.
4. Decided that in due course CHITRAL and RANPURA shall be transferred to C. in C. E.I. and that HECTOR shall be returned to M. of W.T.
5. Intended that CHITRAL and RANPURA shall return to U.K. to give leave before proceeding to their station and need not therefore be included in your leave programme. (1st S.L., 1248A/6 to R.A. 3 etc).

NASTURTIUM and PRIMROSE. — Your 1551A/2. Completion dates approximately end of September. U.S. authorities would like the next two ships to arrive Charleston 25th, 26th or 27/9. (B.A.R.M., 1322R/6 to Admty).

Indo-China. — Text of agreement between Decoux and Japanese General Sumita, from Censorship, Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1328Q/6 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Forces. — My 1825R/5. Cancel paras 2 and 3. Question is still under investigation. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet has gone north and will confer with C.N.S. Canada so as to arrange that no U.K. escort group will be required. (B.A.D., 1345R/6 to Admty).

Suspicious Ship, 31/8. — My 1026R/5, last sentence. British Ship BENREOCH. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1526R/6 to Admty).
S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1026R/5. Address has been amended to include C. in C. S.A. and R.A.S.A.D. (D.D.I.C.,1644A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

NEWCASTLE. — Your 2222Q/5. Yes, NEWCASTLE is required to act as additional escort from Trinidad. (D.O.D. (F) 1649A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Convoy Escorts. — Following received from Opnav. (repeats Spenavo 1752/5). (A.C.N.S. (H), 1709A/6 to C.s. in C. A.W.I., H.F., W.A. etc).

/KATLA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies. - Contd.

KATLA, GODAFOSS. — My 2218Z/4 U.S. Navy Dept. has requested KATLA be instructed to join first available S.C. Convoy destination Reykjavik. Also requested GODAFOSS be instructed to proceed Halifax to sail H.X.150 16/9. Navy Dept. request early information if KATLA and GODAFOSS (?will) comply. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1736Z/6, to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B).

ASTURIAS. — Your 1142R/4. Concur. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1832Q/6 to B.A.R.M.)

DIOMEDE. — Bermuda departure for Trinidad DIOMEDE wearing flag of C. in C. A.W.I. in accordance with my 1052Q/5/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1903Q/6 to Admty).

VANJA. — Necessary Oiler VANJA arrives Freetown as early as possible. If not already sailed request departure be expedited. (D.T.D., 1911A/6 to N.C.S.O. Curacao).

### Australia.

Monster Liners. — Your 1244/21/8. Concur with (A). 2. Question where these vessels should proceed in the case of (B) is being considered. Further signal will be made as to this and as to (C). 3. Trincomalee is in any case considered unsuitable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1745A/6 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMAPIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EINVIK (torpedoed 5/9). Your 2050Z/5. If nothing is found by dark tonight proceed to St. John's N.F. (C. in C. W.A., 1032A/6 to HONEYSUCKLE).

Submarines Reported.

0854. Am over enemy submarine in position 46.57 N., 11.08 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge, Course 270° speed 8 knots. (A/C "C" 0854/6 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine correct position 46.57 N., 12.08 W. (A/C "C" 1025/6 to 19 Group).

0853Z. Following bearings of Italian U-boat, call sign 32A, obtained on 8520 k/cs at 0853Z/6.
(D.D.I.C., 1036A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0918Z. By D/F at 0918Z/6, an Italian U-boat was in the vicinity of Convoy H.G.72.
(D.D.I.C., 1154A/6 to BOREAS, FARNDALE, LEITH).

1027 G.M.T. Bearings of Italian U-boat 97V at 1027 G.M.T./6.
(D.D.I.C., 1219A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1150 G.M.T. Bearings at 1150 G.M.T./6 of Italian U-boat 25V.
(D.D.I.C., 1341A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1434A/6).

1637 G.M.T. By D/F at 1637 G.M.T./6 enemy U-boat in 45° - 46° N., 21° - 22° W. (D.D.I.C., 1826/6).

1841Z. U-boat sighted on surface range 10 miles, and dived in 028° (?05') N., 028° 20' W., at 1841Z/6.
Am now parting company with Oiler RAPIDOL to comply with your 1727A/6 (See North Atlantic)Weather Report
(DUNEDIN, 1906Z/6 to Admty).

Submarines Attacked.

Mediterranean.

By Blenheim A/C 170 miles N. of Sollum, 5/9.
(See Mediterranean, Foreign Stations).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 0730A an Enemy Force was engaged by NIGERIA and AURORA of Force A. in Sverholthavet (71° N. 26° 30' E). The result is still obscure, but a Destroyer, a Trawler, and one other vessel are believed to have been sunk by our Forces, and the BREMSE and another vessel were hard hit, the BREMSE having apparently been also torpedoed by her own side. NIGERIA rammed a wreck during the action and damaged her bows. No casualties were sustained by our Forces.

At 0324 today when about 1½ miles East of Sheringham VERSATILE, escorting Convoy E.C.70, sighted an E-Boat bearing 005° some 2 miles away. An A/P vessel within 400 yards of the E-boat took no action and so allayed VERSATILE's suspicion; but at 0350A several tracks were seen and the British DUNCARRON, 478 Tons, as well as the Norwegian EIKHAUG, 1436 Tons, were torpedoed and sunk, the E-Boat retiring to the Eastward. 11 survivors were picked up. The D.G. gear of the British STELLING was damaged at the same time by a near miss, but she was able to continue towards Hartlepool.

A force of Enemy Ships apparently steering to the Eastward was located by D/F to the northward of Murmansk at 0338C and 0530C today; and 4 fishing vessels escorted by an armed Trawler were seen off Jan Mayen Island at 1305.

INDOMITABLE escorted by 3 Destroyers left Barrow at 1355A for Liverpool.

The Formby Light Vessel was sunk today by collision with EMPIRE SNIPE. Her crew are safe.

British Air Operations.

12 Blenheims, with fighter escort were despatched today to attack shipping off the Dutch coast. A Flakship was blown up off the Hague and a 2000 ton merchant ship is believed to have been hit.

4 Hudsons of Coastal Command last night bombed and set on fire a fish oil factory at Bergso Island (near Stadlandet).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The British MARGREST, 4224 Tons, in Convoy F.N.15 was bombed at 2128A off Yarmouth, whence Tugs proceeded to assist her. There were no casualties.

The Grimsby Trawler NAIRANA was bombed and slightly damaged off Mygganaes (Faroes) at 1005.

At 1438 a Junkers 88 passed over the Orkneys from N.W. to S.E. and could have seen into the Fleet Anchorage.

Mining.

The Fishing Trawler OPHIR in Convoy E.C.70 was sunk by Mine about 15 miles from Spurn Point near H.5 Buoy at 1800 today. 6 of her crew were landed, but 5 are feared lost.

The southern entrance to Egersund is reported today to have been mined between Skarvo and Tingelset.

An enemy Type T. Mine beached yesterday near Shanklin was found to have a wheeled trolley attached to it which may have served to lay it from surface craft.

2 Mines were exploded by Sweepers off the Tyne today, and 1 off the Humber.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

N.E. Coast. To improve the week-end turn round at N.E. Coast ports, the Ministry of War Transport request that the convoy cycle be put back one day, thus making Thursday the blank day at Southend and Monday at Methil. C. in C. Nore has no objection but the change cannot be made for a few days. C. in C. Rosyth also agrees and has made proposals to start the new cycle.

South Atlantic.

GAZCON. Vichy French GAZCON, 4134 tons, was intercepted this afternoon or evening by ALBATROSS about 200 miles S.W. of Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

U.S.S STEEL SEAFARER sunk. It was reported today that the American ship STEEL SEAFARER was bombed and sunk by aircraft at midnight on 5-6/9 near Shadwan Island, entrance to Gulf of Suez. 24 of the crew reached the island and signalled for help. COVENTRY was sent to take them off. 12 others landed at Hurghada, and it is reported all are now safe.

The threat to shipping in Red Sea by the arrival of Focke Wulf aircraft is discussed by C. in C. Mediterranean in a message today. If the American ships are to be protected it is essential they should conform to our directions as for Allied ships. It will also be necessary to increase both air and surface forces in the Red Sea. He asks C. in C. East Indies to consider sending as many escort ships with A/A armament as can be spared to Port Sudan. Admty. view of the situation is contained in 1831A/7.

/Libya .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

15 Wellingtons and 9 Albacores bombed Benghazi and various landing grounds last night.

9 Marylands bombed heavy guns east of Tobruk today, but scored no direct hits.

Egypt and Suez Canel.

Abu Sueir and Ismailia aerodromes were attacked by 2 waves of 10 and 12 bombers last night. Some damage was caused but no casualties. The canal has been reopened.

Turkey.

A message from the Navy Liaison Officer, Black Sea, which the Military Mission at Moscow consider most important, states that an attack on Turkey is expected on 15/9, and that 25,000 German sailors are in Bulgarian ports. Meantime, the Military Attaché at Ankara sends details of German activities in Bulgaria.

China.

C. in C. China considers it would have great propaganda value if REPULSE could pay an early visit to Singapore. C. in C. East Indies concurs and has suggested what would be the earliest date.

An indication of the operations on which TEVIOT BANK may be employed was given by the Admty. today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Suspicious Ship. | American S.S. ROBIN HOOD reported a suspicious ship at 2200Z/7 in 04.40 S., 32.21 W. |
| Easter Island report. | N.A. Santiago states that Easter Island has reported to the Chilean Naval authorities that at 2200/3 three warships were sighted from the island. It is confirmed these were not U.S. ships. |
| Corvettes. | TULIP and CLARKIA have been allocated for service at Trinidad. |
| U.S. Convoy Escorts. | In regard to the start of escorts of high speed convoys by U.S. Forces, R.N. destroyers and corvettes of Newfoundland Force are to carry out allotted duties up to and including S.C.44 and O.N.17 |

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TULIP,
CLARKIA,
(Corvettes).

TULIP and CLARKIA are allocated for Service at Trinidad. (C. in C. W.A., 1708A/7).

Oerlikons for KENYA, NIGERIA, SHEFFIELD, EURYALUS, HERMIONE.

Following is summary of final arrangements made. (Hd. of G. Branch, 1710A/7).

Assessment of Enemy M/V losses.

To assess enemy M/V losses, all claims are being considered by a joint Admty., and Air Ministry Committee and will be placed in four categories as follows:-

1. Sunk or Constructive loss.
2. Seriously damaged.
3. Damaged.
4. Results of attack unobserved or no definite claim.

The existing procedure as regards reporting successes should continue to be made by ships at sea when breaking W/T silence is permissible. On return to harbour, the following further details should be signalled.

(i) Name of ship attacked, if known, otherwise estimated tonnage and type.
(ii) Whether laden or in ballast.
(iii) Destination if known or course.
(iv) Any known or observed facts as to damage sustained which will assist in classification.
(D.D.I.C., 1723A/7) (A Message 529A).

Movements.

SHEFFIELD.

Your 1525A/6. Space available as follows. (SHEFFIELD, 0920A/7 to Admty).

KUJAWIAK.

My 1318/5. After R/V proceed Plymouth for steering gear repairs. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1020/7 to KUJAWIAK).

SOKOL,
TRUSTY,
TAKU.
Alteration of T.B.R.s.

In view of probability of U-boats returning to Biscay ports in the next few days, propose TRUSTY be diverted to Falmouth and TAKU be diverted East of 6° W., or W. of 12° W., to give our A/C a clear run. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1308/7 to F.O.S.)
My 1308/7. Alternatively requirements would be met if T.B.R. were not imposed North of 44° 30' N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1630/7 to F.O.S.)

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.9.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SOKOL, TRUSTY, TAKU. Alteration of T.B.R.s - Contd.

Your 1630/7. This alternative is being arranged. (F.O.S. 1846A/7 to C. in C. Plymouth).
A. Proceed submerged by day when to the northward of 44° 30' N.
B. Submerged B.R. arranged in area between 44° 30' N., 46° N., and 08° and 11° W., from 0800A/8 until 2200A/12.
C. All T.B.R. between 44° 30' N., and 46° N., are cancelled.
T.B.R. between 43° N., and 44° 30' N., and all Submerged B.R. areas remain in force for the periods previously ordered.
D. Expect own air activity and avoid surfacing during daylight hours.
(F.O.S. 1847A/7 to TAKU, SOKOL, TRUSTY).
SOKOL sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553/7).

INDOMITABLE. Sailed escorted by WALKER, VOLUNTEER, and BLANKNEY. Code Word MASTER. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 2030A/7. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1355A/7).

BREDA, TAKU. At 2030A/10 intend to sail BREDA to R/V 0630A/12 with TAKU in 260° Trevose Head 8 miles. Thence TAKU escorted by BREDA to Rothesay. E.T.A. Clyde 0530/14. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
-(Capt. S.7. 1709A/7).

Operations.

Convoy E.C.70. DUNCARRON (British, 478 tons) EIKHAUG (Norwegian, 1436 tons) sunk by E-boat. STELLING (British 2136 tons) damaged.

1 Enemy Boat (E-boat) bearing 001°, position (indecipherable). (VERSATILE, 0324/7).
My 0324. About half a dozen tracks sighted. 2 ships torpedoed. Enemy retired to East. (VERSATILE, 0350A/7).
Departure Tug DIVERSION at 0535A to assist ships in distress off Sheringham Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0602A/7).
My 0350A. DUNCARRON and EIKHAUG sunk by E-boat approx. 1½ miles East Sheringham. M.L. No. 149 returning to base with 7 survivors, and S.S. BRYMIL has 4 survivors from above ships. STELLING D.G. out of action through near miss. He is bound Hartlepool. Request instructions.
(VERSATILE, 0640A/7 to C. in C. Nore).

/Departure.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Convoy E.C.70 DUNCARRON (British 478 tons) EIKHAUG (Norweginn, 1436 tons) sunk by E-boat. STELLING (British 2136 tons) damaged. - Contd. | Departure tug SABINE at 0640 to assist torpedoed vessels. (F.O. Humber, 0727A/7). My 0640A. VERSATILE sighted E-boat bearing 005° two miles when approx. 1½ miles East Sheringham. All suspicions were lulled by the fact that there was an A.P. vessel certainly not more than 400 yards from E-boat. A.P. vessel apparently took no action whatsoever. (VERSATILE, 0735A/7). Your 0640A/7. STELLING is to continue to destination. (C. in C. Nore, 0925A/7 to VERSATILE). |
| Force A. | My 1232A/5. Oiler OLIGARCH not now required by Force A. 3400 tons (?remaining). (S.O. Force A., 0758A/7 to C.S.1). |
| 1 Enemy Destroyer and 1 Trawler sunk. BREMSE damaged. NIGERIA damaged. | Admty. 0104A/7th. Enemy brought to action in foul weather somewhere in Svaerholthavet at 0730A. Result obscure but seems certain that small Destroyer a (Corrupt group) and one Trawler sunk. German BREMSE and another vessel hard hit and BREMSE believed to be torpedoed by own side. NIGERIA rammed wreck in smoke screen, bow damaged speed reduced, sea (corrupt group). AURORA in company. No casualties. P.C. and S. 071° 46' N., 021° 30' E., 270°, 19½ knots, altering course to 240° at 2200. (S.O. Force A., 0800A/7). |
| M.G.B. Patrol. | Your 1125A/7. M.G.B's 87 and 89 detailed vessels to arrive off South Leman buoy at dusk. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1708A/7). |

### British Air Activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| A/C from ARGUS. Operation "Benedict". | Following from 151 Wing. Weather is 5 - 10. No wind. Visibility excellent. Suitable landings here. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0230C/7). All off. (C.S.1., 0815/7). Following from 151 Wing. All A/C have landed. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1125C/7 to Admty). |
| Patrols. | P.R.U. Kristiansand and Oslo and another of Bergen and Haugesund about to take off. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1056/7). |

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity.

**Patrols - Contd.**

My 1056/7. P.R.U. Bergen-Haugesund cancelled as A/C U/S. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1158/7).
"Hornli" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1300/7).
"Stab" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1918/7).

**Flight postponed.**

Cancel my 0027A/6. Flight has been postponed. (D.O.D. H., 1811A/7).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**A/C over Orkneys.**

Ju. 88 appeared out of clouds at 1438 today to West of Hoy, Passed over Fara and Flotta, then left area on S.E. course. Plane was below cloud base of 1500 feet and could have seen into fleet anchorage. No RD/F plots were obtained until plane was going away to Eastward. (A.C.O.S., 1559/7).

**NAIRANA bombed.**

(Grimsby Trawler) Bombed at 1005 today 5 miles S. by E. of Mygganaes. Slight damage, no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1716/7).

C.M.R.35.

**Convoy F.N.15. MARCREST (British 4224 tons) bombed.**

A/C bombing convoy "Pilot" in 110°./(WESTMINSTER, 2104/7).
Fighter A/C have been sent. (Nore, 2117/7).
MARCREST bombed in 52° 39' N., 2° 10' E. settling slowly aft. Tug required. No casualties. (WINCHESTER, 2128A/7).
Your 2128A. Tugs proceeding from Yarmouth now. (C. in C. Nore, 2301A/7).

### Mining.

**North Rona - Iceland Minefield.**

Propose to visit you on 9/9 to discuss certain aspects of North Rona Iceland mine field, arriving about noon in MANXMAN and leaving the same evening, in that ship.
(R.A.M. 1221/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining. - Contd.

**Enemy Mine with Trolley attached.**

One type "T" Mine which was found drifting in Q Z S 239 on Friday has been beached near Shanklin Chine at 1900/6. The mine was recovered with a wheeled trolley secured to it. This does not appear to form part of the sinker but would seemto indicate the means of laying from surface craft. Mine is being dealt with by M.R.S. Party today and will be removed to VERNON to-morrow. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233A/7).

**Egersund reported mined.**

It is reported that the southern entrance to Egersund is mined between Skarvo and Tingelset. Approach is behind Tingelset or North of Egero. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C., 1626A/7).

**Tyne.**

1 Magnetic and 1 Acoustic Mine detonated today. Details. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1715/7).

**OPHIR sunk.**

(Fishing Trawler) Sunk this morning by mine explosion near H.5. buoy.
5 survivors landed at Grimsby from examination vessel FLIXTON at 1430, of whom two are slightly injured.
Grimsby trawler RADASTO picked up 1 survivor and has proceeded to Scarborough. 5 are feared lost (F.O. Humber, 1800A/7).

**Humber.**

At 0756/7 one mine was detonated as follows. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1900A/7).

### Enemy Intelligence.

**E-Boats.**

Suspected E-boat activity in position T. (C. in C. Nore, 0340/7).

**Force off Murmansk.**

Reliable D/F fixes place enemy ships at 0338C, 069° 56' N., 034° 20' E. At 0530C, 070° 13' N., 35° E. in W/T communication with Tromso. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0729C/7).

**Vessels off Jan Mayen.**

Following received in plain auxiliary code from Jan Mayen at 1305. 5 ships in vicinity 08.45 20 miles off. One armed trawler, gun fore, probably A/A; one smaller ship named ICEBEAR; Norway seal catching vessel; 2 fishing vessels. Course W.S.W., 10 miles off. BULL sailed 2200/6 Heading S.O.S. standby all times here in plain language. (A.C.I.C. 2227/7).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BRITISH VALOUR, (Grounded 5/9). — BRITISH VALOUR and tugs NEPTUNE, VOLATILE, and RESOLVE arrived Portland. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1116A/7).

AVALANCHE (M/S Trawler) Grounded. — Grounded in fog at 1450/6 on the West end of Warden Ledge, Needles Channel. When attempting to tow clear a.m.7th vessel rolled on her side. At high water, water is half way across the deck and all compartments are half full. Request Admiralty Salvage Section may take over. Crew all picked up. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1407A/7). Your 1407A/7. Salvage Department will take over. (Director Salvage Dept. 1907A/7).

Formby Light Vessel sunk. — EMPIRE SNIPE reports at 1549 helm jammed, collided with Formby Light vessel. Crew taken off Formby L.V. (Nore W/T 1602/7). Everybody safe off Formby Light Ship. Light Ship sinking. (EMPIRE SNIPE, T.O.R. 1710/7). Formby Light Vessel has been sunk on station. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1853A/7).

NIGERIA. — Details of Damage. Ship cannot anchor. (NIGERIA, 2141A/7 to S.O. Force A).

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L. 84. — Ref. WESTON's 0700/6, following ships in S.L. 84 are fitted with Paravanes. HOLMPARK, BARRDALE, BERKBY, BOTHNIA, HARBERTON. On arrival of ships in harbour request you will investigate and report reasons why these ships were unable to use Paravanes. (D.T.D. 1230A/7 to C. in C. W.A., etc).

Iceland. — S.O. Force A reports following sailed from Adventfiord A.M./3 routed west of Jan Mayen to Akureyri, escorted by ELM speed about 5 knots, Sealers POLARIC, SVALBARD, Whaler AGNES.
2. Tug ISBJORN with armed guard from AURORA sailed P.M./3 to join this convoy.
3. Request you will report arrival, repeated S.O. Force A. (C. in C. H.F., 1431A/7 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

N.E. Coast cycle. — M. of W.T. request that the convoy cycle may be put back one day to improve the week-end turn round at N.E. coast ports, thus making Thursday the blank day at Southend and Monday at Methil. Request your remarks. (D.T.D., 1901A/7 to Cs. in C. Rosyth, Nore).

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

WIVERN. Departure WIVERN for Portsmouth via Plymouth for fuel (route). Request C. in C. Plymouth issue onward routeing instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 0732A/7 to Admty.)

Suspicious Convoy, 4/9. Has any reply been received to your 1051A/6 to PHILANTE? (F.O.C.N.A. 0927A/7 to Admty.) Your 0927A/7. PHILANTE's 1756A/6 states nothing suspicious observed about convoy. Position S.L. 85 at 1400Z/6 was 37° 03' N. 22° 52' W. course 353° 6 knots.
2. Admty. 1728A/6 to GORLESTON. No reply received, hence assumed no ships of O.S.4 were in vicinity. It must therefore be concluded that convoy was not British. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1233A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KOS 7
KOS 9 Your 1130/6. KOS 7 and KOS 9 did not call at Ponta Delgada as mentioned in A.M. 1321/4/8. Proposed visit on 11/9 will not therefore contravene International law. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1100A/7 to N. A. Lisbon).

PROTEUS. Dive by day on the 8th. Keep look out for U-boats. Adjust speed to arrive in position R at 1700A/9. Bombing restriction arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1138A/7 to PROTEUS).
Correct P.C. and S. of PROTEUS at 2020A/7 to read 039° 25' 011° 25', 184°, 12 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1140A/7 to TAKU).

JOAO DE LISBOA. Your 1155/1. (Docking of Portuguese Sloop JOAO DE LISBOA). Permission granted and arrangements made. (Head of M. 1238A/7 to N.A. Lisbon)

### South Atlantic.

GOS 7
KOS 12. Capetown departure A.M./6 GOS 7 and KOS 12 for Durban on passage to Alexandria, speed of advance 8 knots. E.T.A. Durban A.M./10. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0735Z/7 to Admty.)

/CITY.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| CITY OF JOHANNESBURG "Q" Report. | No coded cancellation of QQQQ 2014 G.M.T./6 (N.T. in W.R.) has been received from CITY OF JOHANNESBURG. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0914Z/7 to Admty. C. in C. E.I.) Takoradi and Lagos W/T Stn. intercepted QQQQ made twice at 2123Z/6, but nothing more on 500 KC/S per sec., apparently near Lagos. Any ship having any further information to report is to break W/T silence as soon as present duty will permit. (C. in C. S.A., 1856N/7 to S.A.Stn). |
| Convoy O.S.4, GORLESTON. | O.S.4 in 26.20 21.05 8 knots. In accordance with W.A.C.I.V. 132 para. 15, my 2111Z/3 amended by my 0911Z/5, gave R/V in 19° N. as 0400Z/10. Your 1919N/3 addressed BIDEFORD orders escort S.L. 86 to R/V us 17.41. N. 19.57 W. at 0800/9. Cdre. of convoy whose Liverpool orders give latitude of position F as 21, agrees to steer 156° from R to S, given as 37.30 27.00 and 25.00 20.30 respectively in C. in C. W.A. 1545A/26/8, thence to F, given as 12° N. in Admty. 1508A/16/8. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1342A/6 places convoy 28.32 25.27 steering 174° at 2000A/6, actually 28.00 22.00 steering 156°. FARA and ISLAY rejoining from Azores were given my above intention. If you concur, submit that situation reports all commands conform to avoid ambiguity. (GORLESTON, 1200Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| SAGITTAIRE. | My 2323/27/ (? 7) (N.T. in W.R). Information has now been received that SAGITTAIRE is expected at Dakar shortly. No other information about movement available but look out to be kept for this ship. (C. in C. S.A., 1347N/7 to S.A. Stn.) |
| GAZCON (French) | Intercepted by ALBATROSS p.m./7. (D.O.R. 8/9) See W.D. 8/9. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

**Vichy Convoy.**

Return route of Vichy Convoy B.1 as follows. Leaves Beyrout 1100/12, etc. (C. in C. Med., 08470/7 to Med. Fleet).

**STEEL SEAFARER sunk.**

Cape Clear reports STEEL SEAFARER bombed and sunk midnight 5/6. Am sending COVENTRY to search for 12 survivors in boat (?40) miles S.S.E. of Shadwan Island. 24 men landed Shadwan Island. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 09210/7 to Admty. etc.)
American STEEL SEAFARER reported sunk by aircraft attack near Shadwan Island. No details known except that 24 of crew are on Shadwan and signalled for help. COVENTRY sent to take them off. (C. in C. Med., 1051/7 to Admty.)
My 09210/7, boat contains 12 survivors landed Hurghada. Reported all crew saved. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 12360/7).
Your 1051/7, was SEAFARER Northbound or Southbound? (1st S.L. 1509A/7 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 1509A/7. Northbound. (C. in C. Med. 19070/7 to Admty.)

**Air Raids, Alexandria, Abu Sueir, Ismailia.**

My A.872, 6/9. Alexandria bombed by about 9 enemy aircraft night 5/6. A barge sunk in Harbour and Sidi Gaber Railway Station damaged. Some civilian casualties. No service damage or casualties reported. Night 6/7 Sept. Abu Sueir and Ismailia twice bombed by a total of 22 enemy A/C. Hurricanes destroyed two enemy A/C probably destroyed one and damaged a fourth. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1038/7) See also 2031/7.

**Derna, Bardia bombed.**

Night 5/6. 3 Wellingtons bombed Derna aerodrome. Further 2 Wellingtons bombed M.T. vehicles and camp south of Derna and Martuba West landing ground. Blenheims bombed El Adem and Bardia.

**Cyprus Raid.**

Cyprus. Night 5/6, 3 enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Strongylo and Kythrea. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1041/7).

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.9.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

U.S. Ships, Red Sea, A/C attack.

The arrival of Focke Wulf aircraft means ships in Red Sea are now being attacked. Policy regarding U.S. ships is not clear and very early guidance is requested. At present U.S. ships steam with lights burning at night and are not escorted. If Red Sea is now treated as a War Zone and measures taken with merchant vessels accordingly, will the effects be to stop American ships bringing supplies to Middle East? One American ship has already been sunk and if these ships are to be protected it is essential they should conform to our directions as for Allied ships. It will also be (?essential) to increase both air and surface force in Red Sea. (C. in C. Med. 1117/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.I.)
My 1117C/7. Request you will give immediate consideration to sending as many escort ships with A.A. Armament as you can spare to Port Sudan.
(C. in C. Med. 1119C/7 to C. in C. E.I.)
Your 1117/7.
A. Situation likely to arise was pointed out to Americans over a week ago. No reply yet received, possibly due to their wishing to leave the situation as it was. B. Sinking of STEEL SEAFARER will no doubt bring things to a head. C. Meantime no action as regards either escort or instructions to U.S. ships should be taken. D. We do not know what instructions U.S. ships have, but we have informed them that their ships have their lights on. E. C. in C. E.I. will no doubt remark on reinforcement of surface forces from his station. (1st S.L. 1831A/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea. Expected Attack on Turkey.

(1) Para. 1 my teleg. No. 2117, 5/9. Enemy bridge head at Berislav maintained and strongly protected by anti-aircraft and fighter aircraft. (2) All bridges Bulgarian Turkish frontier blown up by Turks. Attack on Turkey expected 15/9 after (?ultimatum). (3) 25,000 German (?sailors) in Bulgarian ports. (4) Air attack Satchell railway and sea communications increasing but not serious. (5) Enemy transporting poison gas to the eastern front. (6) One battleship towed from and one battleship blown up at Aeolayev both early in August. (7) All above stated as facts by Chief Intelligence Officer, Black Sea, but I cannot assess veracity.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1917C/7 to Adm. Miles.)

/Cyprus.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

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|---|---|
| Cyprus. Raid. | Air Raid 0410/7. Some bombs well out to sea about 10 miles east of Kyrenia. Some bombs about 18 miles west of Famagusta. Flares used for first time but not over Famagusta. No Mines as far as known. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 19260/7 to C. in C. Med.) |
| Abu Sueir and Ismailia Raids. | Ref. C. A. F.O. 587. Night 6/7, calm, clear (b) 2 waves attacked Abu Sueir Aerodrome 2048 to 2243 and 0350 to 0524 by 10 and 12 enemy aircraft, no flares, bright moon. (c) H.E. and incendiaries (d) 40 H.E. about 300 incendiaries -(e) 4 hangars burnt, contents negligible, no casualties reported (f) 16 fighters up, 3 interceptions resulting in 1 J.U. 88 destroyed prisoners taken, large crater containing fragments being investigated, (g) balloons flying. K.4 H.E. Ismailia Aerodrome, 12 machines damaged varying degrees, no casualties. 4 U.X.B. Moascar Camp, no damage no casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 20310/7 to Admty. etc.) |
| Bulgaria. | Report of German activity. (M.A. Ankara 2105/7 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy. |
| Situation report 141. | Red Sea. American ship STEEL SEAFARER sunk (? total loss) 5/6 as in JADE's 0921/7. Captain and 24 survivors now on board COVENTRY. 12 others landed. Canal Area, 2 raids Abu Sueir (?aerodrome) night 5/6 no damage. Canal reopened. (C. in C. Med., 23550/7). |

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fairmiles. Your 1418/4. Arrangements are being made for maintenance and repair facilities for all Fairmiles and 72 ft. M.L's etc., expected to be based on Indian ports. Details.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0401Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

Ex-Enemy Ships and Port T. Request Admiralty views on my 0730/30 (salvaging of ships captured at Bandar Shapur), re Port T.
(C. in C.E.I., 0518Z/7, to Admty.)

WEST ZEDA. WEST ZEDA ashore at Abu Ali since 21/8 refloated at 0127Z/7 proceeding Aden. Tugs TAI KOO and ST.AUBIN in attendance.
(S.N.O.R.S., 0609Z/7, to Admty.)

Port T. MAURITIUS. In view of C. in C. Med's., 1040/6 and fact that stores and equipment which M.N.B.D.O. requires loaded in GLEN Ship cannot be known until R/C of Port T. has been carried out, I intend sailing MAURITIUS with M.N.B.D.O. leaving here at 0330Z/8 for this purpose.
(C. in C.E.I., 0644Z/7, to Admty.)

Iran. Admty., 2005/5. Naval para. (VI) "Navigation lights" should read "Navigation rights". Original error arose in (? Para. 5 of) my 0235/28.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0807Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

Enemy Ships ex-Iran. My 0602/4, present situation. HOHENFELS salvage work continues. MARIENFELS delayed by engine defects. Earliest possible sailing date p.m./8. All other ships are clear of Northern End Persian Gulf. HILDA has been refloated.
(C. in C.E.I., 1302Z/7, to Admty., etc.)

FALMOUTH SHOREHAM. It may be necessary in very near future to withdraw FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM for duty with Red Sea Force. Report earliest date on which these ships can be made available.
(C. in C.E.I., 1540Z/7, to S.N.O.P.G.)

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG "Q" Report. At 2040Z/6 Oban W/T Station intercepted QQQQ from GDVN on 500 kc/s. No position given. As CITY OF JOHANNESBURG's estimated position 14° 30' S 41° 30' E., message appears unlikely to have originated from her, but have you any information?
(D.D.I.C., 1543A/7 to C. in C.E.I.)

/Your 1543/7.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG. "Q" Report. Contd.

Your 1543/7 QQQQ from CITY OF JOHANNESBURG in 15° 05' S., 41° 39' E., made at 2014Z/6 subsequently cancelled in P/L at 2112Z/6 and in Merchant Navy Code at 1650Z/7.
(C. in C.E.I., 1652Z/7, to Admty.)

China.

French Shipping.

Departure 6/9 CAP TOURANE COMPIEGNE, SI-KIANG destination believed Madagascar.
(Saigon, 0225Z/7, to M. of W.T.)
Saigon, departure 6/9 LUFFIEGNE believed for Japan.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0301Z/7, to Admty.)

FUSIJAMA (Italian.)

Yokohama departed about 31/8.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0309Z/7.)

REPULSE.

Admty., 1820/6. I consider it would have great propaganda value if REPULSE could pay an early visit to Singapore.
(C. in C. China, 0503Z/7, to C. in C.E.I.)

TEVIOT BANK.

Employment. Reply to C. in C. China 0855/2.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1350A/7.) See Operation Volume.

Hong Kong.

S.X.1. Demolition arrangements should be extended to cover all stocks of petroleum products if this is not already allowed for. Orders regarding boom defence in Sec. 3, Para.30. (K) should be amended to conform with A.L. B.D.01098/41 of 18/7/41.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1736A/7 to Cdre.Hong Kong.)

BERNARDIN DE ST.PIERRE. (French.)

Arrived. (Shanghai, 2351Z/7, to M. of W.T.)

/DUCHESS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.9.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies.

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. WARWICK CASTLE.

My 1759/21/8. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has been unable to leave Clyde owing to engine defects. Possibility is being considered of using WARWICK CASTLE herself for movement of 1500 personnel ex WARWICK CASTLE. Request immediate report of earliest firm date by which she could be ready to sail Halifax.
(D.S.T., 0151A/7 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)
Your 0151A/7. Unable to confirm WARWICK CASTLE firm date but expected date 25/9 given in my 1757 Z/27/8 still holds. Firm date will be given as soon as possible.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1712Z/7, to D. of S.T.)

PRINCE HENRY DESPATCH.

After R/V with DESPATCH on 8/9, proceed to Balboa so as to transit canal on 11/9. Proceed thence to Kingston Jamaica. Further instructions will follow. Panama informed.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0931Q/7 to PRINCE HENRY.)

NEWCASTLE.

Your 1050R/5. NEWCASTLE E.T.A. Boston unlikely before 24/9.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0941Q/7 to B.A.D.)

PARTHIAN.

PARTHIAN reaches position (D) 048° 00' N., 030° 00' W., at 0700A/9. Route and E.T.A. PARTHIAN is painted dark blue. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to arrange bombing restrictions.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0953Q/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

BARFLEUR. (French.)

Following from Opnav for D.C. French auxiliary cruiser BARFLEUR returned to Fort de France a.m./6. C.N.S. Ottawa informed.
(Spenavo, 1046/7, to Admty.)

NORSEMAN.

Request opportunity may be taken of presence here of cable ship NORESEMAN due to sail for St. Lucia 10/9 to eliminate severed cable movement No. 1 loop Northern system and repair faulty No.6. loop. Ship should not be delayed beyond 12/9 if I c an receive immediate approval.
(N.O.I.C.Trinidad, 1125Q/7 to Admty.)
Approved. (D.S.D., 1142A/8.)

/CALIFORNIA.....

War Diary. 7.9.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.Contd.

CALIFORNIA. Your 1242A/6. CALIFORNIA can be accepted. Yard will be given later. Job. No.S.150. (B.A.R.M., 1236R/7, to Admty.)

U.S.N. Routeing. My 2103/5. Correct references to read U.K. High Commissioner in Canada's No. 125643 and Dominions Office No. 1401 of 6/8. (B.A.D., 1259R/7, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

CALIFORNIA CATHAY. Ref. R.A.3's 1437/4 and A.M. 1242/6, request whether CALIFORNIA can be taken hand in U.S.A., for refit about last week in September, and if so, at what port. Also, can Repair Yard be now given for CATHAY due to depart from U.K. on 20/9/41. (D. of D., 1516A/7, to B.A.R.M.) W.D.Note.-Answered as regards CALIFORNIA by B.A.R.M. 1236R/7.

WINNIPEG. Your 1842Q/6. It is important to get Honduras unit as far as Halifax and s.s. WINNIPEG should be used for this purpose, low speed and absence of armament being accepted. 2. Agree Naval draft remain in QUEEN OF BERMUDA as far as Bermuda. D. of S.T.'s 0141/5 not to N.O.I.C. Trinidad deals with question of their on carriage in s.s.CAPETOWN CASTLE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1523A/7 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

TULIP. CLARKIA. TULIP and CLARKIA are allocated for service at Trinidad. C. in C.A. and W.I., is requested to arrange sailing of these Corvettes. (C. in C.W.A., 1708A/7, to B.A.R.M., etc.)

Newfoundland Force. Admty. 1709A/6. (1) R.N. destroyers and corvettes of Newfoundland Force are to carry out allotted duties up to and including S.C.44 and O.N.17. (2) Largest available force of R.N. destroyers and corvettes is required to arrive Iceland in time to fuel and escort H.X.150 from a R/V in 027° W. (date) to U.K. subsequently remaining in U.K. Request you will signal name of ships detailed. (C. in C.W.A., 1711A/7 to C.C.N.F.)

/Suspicious.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (Contd.)

Suspicious Ships, Easter Island. B.N.A.Santiago states Easter Island reported to Chilian Naval authorities that at 2200/3, three warships were sighted from Island. B.A.D. confirms these were not U.S.warships and that U.S. C. in C. has been informed.
(C.in C.A.W.I., 1753Q/7, to Admty.)

RIO BRANCO. Nor. RIO BRANCO sailed Singapore 30/7 for Los Angeles has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1931Z/7 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SESSA. Your 1739/5 to N.C.S.O. Panamanian Ship ESSA (? SESSA) torpedoed 17/8. 3 survivors brought in by MAURITIUS P.M. today/7.
(A.C.I.C., 2251/7, to Admty.)
SESSA left New York 8/8, overdue at Reykjavik since 18/8. (D.S.734.)

Submarines Reported.

Enemy S/M reliable fix 069° 57' N., 036° 51' E.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 0734C/7 to F.O.I.C.S.)

2250/6. By D/F at 2250/6 G.M.T. an enemy U/Boat within 200 miles of 29° N., 30° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0816A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

7/9. It is suspected that a slightly damaged U Boat was in approx., position 068° 20' N., 040° East on 7/9 returning to Trondhjem.
(C. in C.H.F., 1213A/7, to ELECTRA.)

1335C. U/B encounted by TORBAY 32.42 N., 28.55E.
See Capt. S.1, 0827/8.
(Mediterranean.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
German. About 40 operating in Atlantic.
(D.D.I.C. 1455A/7.)

1620 G.M.T. By D/F at 1620 G.M.T. U-boat in area 49° to 50° 30' N., 11° to 13° W. Probably homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1755A/7, to C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

U.73. sunk. "BC" Soviet Naval Authorities claim to have sunk U.73. off Cape Kanin Saturday 6/9 Lifebuoy was recovered.
(Adm. Miles, Moscow, 1501C/7 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

NIGERIA with damaged bows and her No.11 bulkhead showing signs of fatigue was about 100 miles West of the Lofoten Islands at 1800A today on her way home with AURORA in company. LONDON has been ordered to proceed from Hvalfiord to provide her with cover, A/S air escort and a Salvage Tug are being sent to her from Iceland, and 2 Destroyers are to be sailed to Seidisfiord to be available as A/S Escort.

At 0510 two Enemy Destroyers estimated at between 1500 and 2,000 tons passed Gris Nez steering eastward; and at 1500 one German Cruiser and 2 Troepdo Boats were seen passing Helsinborg in the Sound going north.

The cable from U.K. to Iceland is broken one mile north of the Faeroes and A.C.I.C. requests its early repair.

C. in C. H.F. intends to visit F.O.C. U.S. Naval Forces in Iceland shortly and has requested the clarification of several matters respecting our co-operation with U.S. Ships.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 11 rounds between 2045 and 2106 today, whilst Convoy C.W. 49 was passing Dover. No naval damage was caused.

British Air Activity.

42 aircraft bombed the Deutsche Werke shipyards at Kiel last night and 44 docks Nos. 4 and 6 and 7, at Boulogne.

Blenheims today successfully attacked barges and tugs between Guernsey and Sark.

2 A/C with a maximum load of G.P. Bombs are to carry out tonight an anti-shipping Patrol between Ushant and the Gironde.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The British MARCREST, bombed yesterday off Cromer, sank in tow at 0630A today about ¾ mile N.E. of the South Scroby Buoy.

Yarmouth was bombed last night, but without naval damage or casualty.

At 2215 yesterday a single A/C dropped 3 Bombs on Dover, Killing 3 civilians; and shortly afterwards 3 salvoes of H.E. Bombs were dropped on and round the harbour at Ramsgate, killing 7 civilians and wounding 15 more.

Mining.

7 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Islands.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE sailed today from Archangel to cover our minesweeping operations at the mouth of the White Sea, and a Russian Minelayer left Murmansk yesterday for operations off Varda.

The M.D. Ship CORFIELD was sunk by a near mine explosion at 1934A today about 2 miles South of the Humber Light Vessel, it is believed without casualties.

As from next Wednesday, Belfast from the Pile Light will be closed daily from 2100 till 0600.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off the Humber.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N. Convoys. Changes in the cycle of O.N. Convoys (U.K. to North America and West Indies) were ordered by Admty., today.

Foreign Stations.

Leave. In order that ships' companies may not spend an undue time abroad without leave, it is intended to initiate a system of reliefs, provided the international situation does not further -deteriorate.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Convoy. DUNEDIN continues to search for the suspicious convoy (possibly French) reported by PHILANTE in 32.52 N., 22.32 W., at 2100Z/4.
DUNEDIN at noon had nothing to report southward of Canary Islands or in vicinity of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, and Las Palmas. Sunderlands and a Hudson A/C from Bathurst are to co-operate tomorrow.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### South Atlantic.

**REPULSE.**

REPULSE, escorting W.S.11 reports oil from oiler RAPIDOL inadequate, and as she cannot exceed 15 knots and reach Freetown may have to go to Bathurst. C. in C. S.A. has informed her it is undesirable to fuel there, but oiler LISS can R/V off the harbour if necessary.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be sent to join the convoy on 11/9 in case REPULSE has to leave.

**Cable Operation.**

MILFORD reports that the operation of cutting cable by LADY DENISON PENDER ordered last month has been completed.

**Bathurst.**

Facilities at Bathurst as a terminal port for ocean escorts are reported as inadequate by C. in C. Western Approaches.

**Troop Convoy.**

C.M.18 escorted by AUSTRALIA, left Durban today for Suez.

**GAZCON.**

Vichy French GAZCON, intercepted yesterday by ALBATROSS, is being taken to Lagos under armed guard, and is due to arrive about 0900/10 G.M.T.

### Mediterranean.

**Air Attack on Palermo.**

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping in Palermo last night and report hits on sheds, docks, main jetties and dry dock.

**Libya and Western Desert.**

Supply of Tobruk by destroyers from Alexandria has recommenced.

/Egypt.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Egypt and Suez Canal. — Suez was twice bombed last night by about 26 aircraft. No naval damage was caused but there was 1 R.M. casualty in the first raid.

Dardanelles. — S/M TORBAY is to establish a patrol until further instructions, off the Dardanelles.

Black Sea. — There is further intelligence today of a possible German seaborne expedition against Russia, and apprehensions of possible action against Turkey.

East Indies.

Red Sea Force. — Although FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM (Persian Gulf Division) are not adequately armed for A/A defence, C. in C. E.I. intends sending them to Aden as soon as possible. He requests that SUTLEJ and JUMNA may reinforce Red Sea Force.

Trincomalee. — A reply was given today to C. in C. E.I. in regard to the facilities to be provided for certain ships at Trincomalee.

Vichy Shipping. — EMERALD is to leave Seychelles tomorrow to patrol between Cape Amber and Saya de Malha Bank for the interception of Vichy French Shipping.

China.

Singapore. — Details of mines, laid in the Western portion of Singapore Straits were announced today by R.A. Malaya.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign.

Italian U/B Sunk.

Destroyer CROOME, of 6th Escort Group, attacked and sunk an Italian U/B reported to be the MAREGGIOR FRANCESCO BARACCA, this morning in 40.30 N., 21.15 W., and picked up some survivors. Her bow was damaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

LACONIA. (A.M.C.) Is due Liverpool shortly to be taken in hand for conversion to a Troop Transport. (D. of S.T. 0213A/8.)

BURZA. Owing to her limited endurance BURZA is to be placed temporarily under operational control of F.O.I.C. Belfast for employment in Irish Sea Escort Force. BURZA will continue to be administered by Capt. D. Greenock. (C. in C.W.A. 1307A/8.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Information. Admiral Vian reports enemy brought to action in foul weather somewhere in Svaerholthavet at 0730A/7. Result obscure but certain that one small destroyer one trawler and one other vessel sunk, BREMSE and one other vessel hard hit and possibly sunk. NIGERIA slightly damaged by ramming. No casualties in NIGERIA or AURORA. You may inform Russian Authorities. (A.C.N.S.H. 1329A/8, to Ad. Miles.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Request for clarification. Your 1904/13 May, your 1624/28/8, and your 1709/6/9. Intend visit F.O.C., U.S.Naval Forces about 22/9. Request clarification of following points. (C. in C.H.F. 1338A/8, to Adty.)
See Operations Volume.
See also C. in C.H.F. 1202A/9.

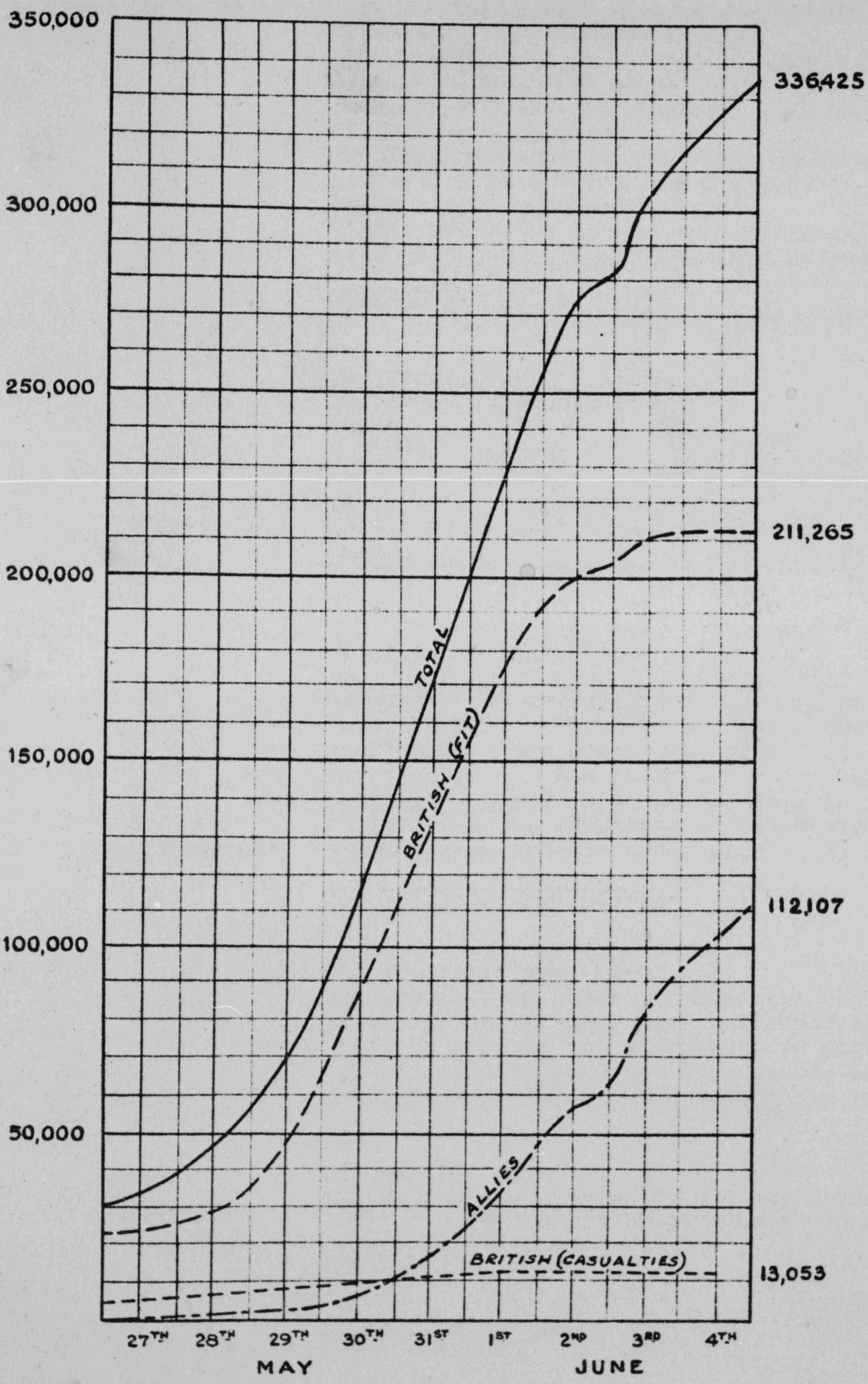
Movements.

INDOMITABLE. Have detached WALKER, VOLUNTEER to Lough Foyle. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel with BLANKNEY at 1000. (INDOMITABLE 0815/8.)
Visibility at Bar L.V. 1- 1/2 miles.
BLANKNEY detached in execution of previous orders. (INDOMITABLE 0958/8.)
My 1046/8. Fog in River and Gladstone dock precludes berthing today. Remain at anchor and retain BLANKNEY as escort. Weather permitting movement will commence 1145/9.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1056A/8 to INDOMITABLE.)

/TAKU.....

# WITHDRAWAL FROM FLANDERS.

## Numbers counted in to trains in British Ports.




I.S.P.S. 5/6/40

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

TAKU. F.O.(S) 1253A/5. Route to Clyde.
(Capt. S.7. 0949A/8, to TAKU.)

NORFOLK. Intend to sail for Scapa A.M./15.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne 1000/8.)

AMARAPOORA (Hospital Ship.) Sailed for Scapa. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1147A/8, 1609/8.)

DUKE OF YORK. PENELOPE. LIGHTNING. ICARUS. VIVACIOUS. Take ships mentioned under your orders and comply with Admiralty 1857A/11/8 passing Beamer Rock, Firth of Forth at 1630/10 in accordance with C. in C. Rosyth 1021/2. VIVACIOUS will R/V Clyde Boom at 0600/9.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1206A/8 to DUKE OF YORK.)

Force A. Your 0911A/8. Approved to call at Scapa. DROVER convoy arrived Iceland 1/9.
(C. in C.H.F. 1209A/8, to S.O.Force A.)

AMAZON. Arrived and sailed 1250Z immediately.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1253/8.)

O.14. O.14 is to be withdrawn from patrol after dark today and is to return to Dundee.
(F.O.S. 1309A/8.)
Route. (Capt. S.9. 1529A/8 to O.14.)

TUNA. Have lost contact with escort in thick fog. My position 052° 13' N., 005° 32' W., course 360°, Speed 10 knots.
(TUNA 1900A/8.)

Operations.

Force L. Oiler OLIGARCH is to remain in position G.G.75° N., 2° E., until further orders probably p.m.11th. Trawlers are to remain with oiler OLIGARCH to limit of endurance subject to returning to Akureyri.

/2. When.....

War Diary. 8.9.41. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force L. (Contd.)

2. When met one destroyer Force 'L' may be detached to escort Oiler OLIGARCH to Hvalfjord if it is found trawlers have proceeded.
(C. in C.H.F. 1107A/8 to HAZEL, etc.)
My 2052A/7 and S.O.Force "A" 0800A/7. Request you instruct Oiler OLIGARCH to remain in position GG and (corrupt group) 1500 tons oil by 0200A/10 when Force L expected. Leave GG for Base noon/11 if not met by then.
(C.S.1. 1443/8 to C. in C.H.F.)

TIGRIS. Patrol. TRIDENT.

Limitation imposed in A.M. 1359A/4 and A.M. 2303A/6 on TIGRIS patrol area is cancelled forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1328A/8 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)
Intend to sail TRIDENT for patrol with 12 torpedoes on 16/9. TIGRIS due Polyarno from patrol 21/9. In the event of TIGRIS returning on or before this date having expended all torpedoes, and unless spare torpedoes can arrive Archangel by 21/9, propose TIGRIS should return to Polyarno, embark four torpedoes for passage, and return to U.K. to complete outfit. Approximately 14 days required for transport and preparations of 16 torpedoes after arrival Archangel.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/8, to (?F.O.S.))

Dover Straits Patrol.

Two M.G.B's leave Ramsgate at 2030 to patrol between East Varne and South Varne buoys until 0200 then returning to Dover.
(V.A.Dover 1618A/8.)

O.14.

One cruiser and two torpedo boats reported passing Helsingborg northbound at 1500/8. Action ordered in S.9's 1529A/8 is to be postponed for 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 2044A/8 to O.14.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

P.R.U. of Haugesund, Bergen, Stavanger, and Kristiansand South, Oslo, Aalborg in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1130/8.)

Own A/C fired on.

By Trawler DE RESKE 1820B.S.T/5. Details.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1202/8.)

/Anti-.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.Contd.

Anti-shipping Patrol.

C. Two A/C of 217 Squadron armed with maximum load of G.P. bombs (11 sec delay) to carry out anti-shipping patrol in most suitable area between Ushant and mouth of Gironde tonight. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q.1401/8.)

Patrols.

HORNLI now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1410/8.)
PATE 2 in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1458/8.)

T.B.R.

Request T.B.R. in area 61 North of 60° N., and East of 006° 30' W., from 0500 A/12 until 1200 A/12.
(Capt. S.7. 1419/8 to A.C.H.Q.C.C.)

A/C in Russia.

Following received from 151 Wing. Unable to operate until guns and ammunition arrive by train from Archangel. 13050/8. Ends.
(B.S.N.O.Murmansk 15450/8 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MARCREST (Bombed 7/9.)

Arrival at 0600 A/8 M.L.S. 194, 191, 190 with mate and 29 other survivors of MARCREST including five D.E.M.S. All uninjured. Captain and eight men on board EUCLASE.
(N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 0550A/8. 0754A/8)
Arrival Tug KROOMAN having towed MARCREST from No. 5 buoy at 0300A/8 to 1/2 mile South of South Scroby buoy at 0630A/8, where MARCREST foundered. Salvage abandoned.
(N.O.I.C.Lowestoft 0820A/8, F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0911A/8.)

Yarmouth bombed.

Gt. Yarmouth bombed night 7th/8th. No naval damage or casualties. Slight structural damage to swing bridge.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0743A/8.)

TRSAT. (Jugoslav, 1369 Tons.) sunk on 7/9.

Bombed and sunk by direct hit forward at 2054/7 in 17 N.E. by E. Kinnairds Head seven miles. Total crew 17 of which Fraserburgh Lifeboat landed 14 some injured. One dead picked up by A/P trawler EBOR ABBEY. Two missing. (C. in C. Rosyth 0759/8.)

/Dover.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.

Dover bombed. Single A/C dropped three bombs at 2215/7 in Dover. Two hit Burlington Hotel killing three civilians.
(V.A.Dover 0900A/8.)

A/C over Orkneys on 7/9. My 1559/7. Cancel last sentence. R.D.F.plots of an aircraft approaching Orkneys were obtained from 30 M to westward. This aircraft was identified by Filter Officer at Sector headquarters as friendly coastal, in light of subsequent events probably incorrectly. A/C was also picked up by GL set which lost it over Hoy. R.D.F.plots were again obtained as A/C flew out eastward. A/C was above cloud until diving through over Gutter Sound.
(A.C.O.S. 0950/8.)

Ramsgate bombed on 7/9. My 2322A/7. Three salvos of H.E. bombs dropped on and around the harbour. Civilian damage and casualties. Number of unclassified roads blocked and ttelephone wires damaged.
(N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1440A/8.)

EMPIRE GUNNER (British 4492 Tons.) sunk on 7/9. Sunk by A/C at 0037/7 about 25 miles North of Milford Haven. Crew saved and landed at Liverpool. (D.S.734.)

Mining.

White Sea. ELECTRA and ACTIVE returned Archangel 6/9 sailing 8/9 for A/S Sweep and as covering force for our minesweepers and Russian convoys at mouth of White Sea. Returning about 12/9. HARRIER, SALAMANDER, HALCYON, three trawlers sailed 7/9 for mine searching operations at entrance to White Sea returning 11 to 12 September.
(Ad. Miles. 1022C/8.)
Soviet K 2 sailed p.m. 7th to patrol off Varda and lay mines in this vicinity. Position of mines laid will be signalled.
Soviet K20, K21, K22, K23 and L (?22) (LIM Class) have arrived White Sea from Baltic.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1244C/8.)

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.41. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Thames Estuary. | Three magnetic mines detonated today as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1616/8.) |
| Belfast. | As from 10/9 the Port of Belfast from the Pile Light will be closed between 2100 and 0600. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 1831A/8.) |
| CORFIELD (M.D.Ship.) Sunk | CORFIELD sunk by a near mine explosion about 2 miles South of Humber L/V. Believed no casualties. (F.O.Humber 1934A/8.) |
| Humber. | The following two magnetic mines exploded at 0841 to-day. Details. (F.O. Humber 2216A/8.) |

Enemy Intelligence.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 Destroyers off Gris Nez. | Two Enemy Destroyers passed Griz Nez eastward at 0510 today. Class uncertain. Visual reports estimate between 1500 and 2000 tons. (V.A.Dover 0706A/8.) |
| TIRPITZ. SEYDLITZ. | (1) Kiel 4/9. TIRPITZ lying behind floating dock. No other large warships observed. Graded A.2. (2) Bremen 3/9. SEYDLITZ fitting out. Graded A.2. (Asst. N.A. Stockholm 1347/8.) |
| Force in The Sound. | One German cruiser and two torpedo boats observed at Helsingborg going north 15 hours. (? B.C.Goteborg 1630/8 to Adty.) |
| E-Boats. | Indication 3 E boats near Sheringham Buoy. (SOUTHDOWN 2225A/8.) |

Miscellaneous.

| | |
|---|---|
| Iceland - U.K. cable. | Broken. Break appears one mile north of (Faroes)? As this cable is of great importance in our communications request it may be repaired as soon as possible. (A.C.I.C. 2345/8.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

AYRSHIRE. (Escort Trawler). Has broken down and has been towed by ARAB to Kilchattan Bay. Request you sail ZWARTE ZEE to Kilchattan Bay with instructions to tow AYRSHIRE to Greenock.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 0357A/8 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown.)

AUK. Vessel is ashore Bhride Island, 204° Ardmore Point 3 miles. Port Askaig lifeboat proceeded.
(C.G.Kilchoman 0420/8.)
Ashore Chuirn Island. Require immediate assistance.
(AUK 0642/8.)

NIGERIA. (damaged 7/9.) NIGERIA's 2141A/7th. Ship could be secured to buoy, lie alongside or in emergency anchor. Should like to call at Scapa to see you and collect mails stores and personnel.
(S.O.Force A. 0911A/8 to C. in C.H.F.)
S.O. Force "A" 0800A/7. Request repair yard be allocated for NIGERIA who will probably be available 10/9.
(C. in C.H.F.1150A/8.)
NIGERIA can be taken in hand forthwith at Middle Docks, South Shields.
2. Dock itself not available until about 22/9, but refitting and preliminary work can be commenced as soon as ship arrives.
3. Length of refit is to be limited to time required for repairs.
(Vice Controller 2004A/8 to C. in C.H.F.)
NIGERIA with damaged bows and number 11 bulkhead buckling and showing sighs of fatigue in 068° 59' N., 007°14' W., at 1800A/8, course 245°, speed 8 knots. AURORA in company.
(ii) LONDON proceed at best speed to provide cover.
(iii) A.C.I.C. is requested to provide A/S air escort and also to sail salvage tug.
(C. in C.H.F. 2316A/8.)
LONDON proceeding from Hvalfiord to provide cover. A/S air escort and salvage tug are being sailed by N.O.I.C. Iceland.
Request you sail 2 destroyers to Seidis Fiord to be available as A/S escort.
(C. in C.H.F. 2346A/8 to R.A.D. H.F.)

BURZA
ROSEMARY
collision. BURZA and ROSEMARY were in collision to-day in thick fog inside Milford Haven. Both vessels sustained slight damage, but this does not affect their seaworthiness.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1058/8.)

/Damage.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

| | |
|---|---|
| BURZA. ROSEMARY collision. (Contd.) | Damage will not prevent BURZA complying with C. in C.W.A., 1448A/7. (BURZA 1111/8.) |
| MAID MARIAN. | My 1034/7. Delayed with compass defects. (C. in C. Plymouth 1108/8.) |
| BORDE. | Departure Immingham Tug HEADMAN at 1320 to assist BORDE broken down at Humber L.V. (F.O.Humber 1322A/8.) |
| Unknown vessel. | Following has been read. Automatic S.O.S. signal heard at 1507 G.M.T., strength 2, bearing from G.L.D.100° about. (Lands End Radio 1516/8.) |
| EILEEN EMMA. | Delayed owing to steam pipe and boiler defects, estimated to take 10 days. (N.O.I.C.Oban 1710A/8.) |
| BRADFORD. | Delayed approx., 7 days by defects. (C. in C. Nore 1740A/8.) |

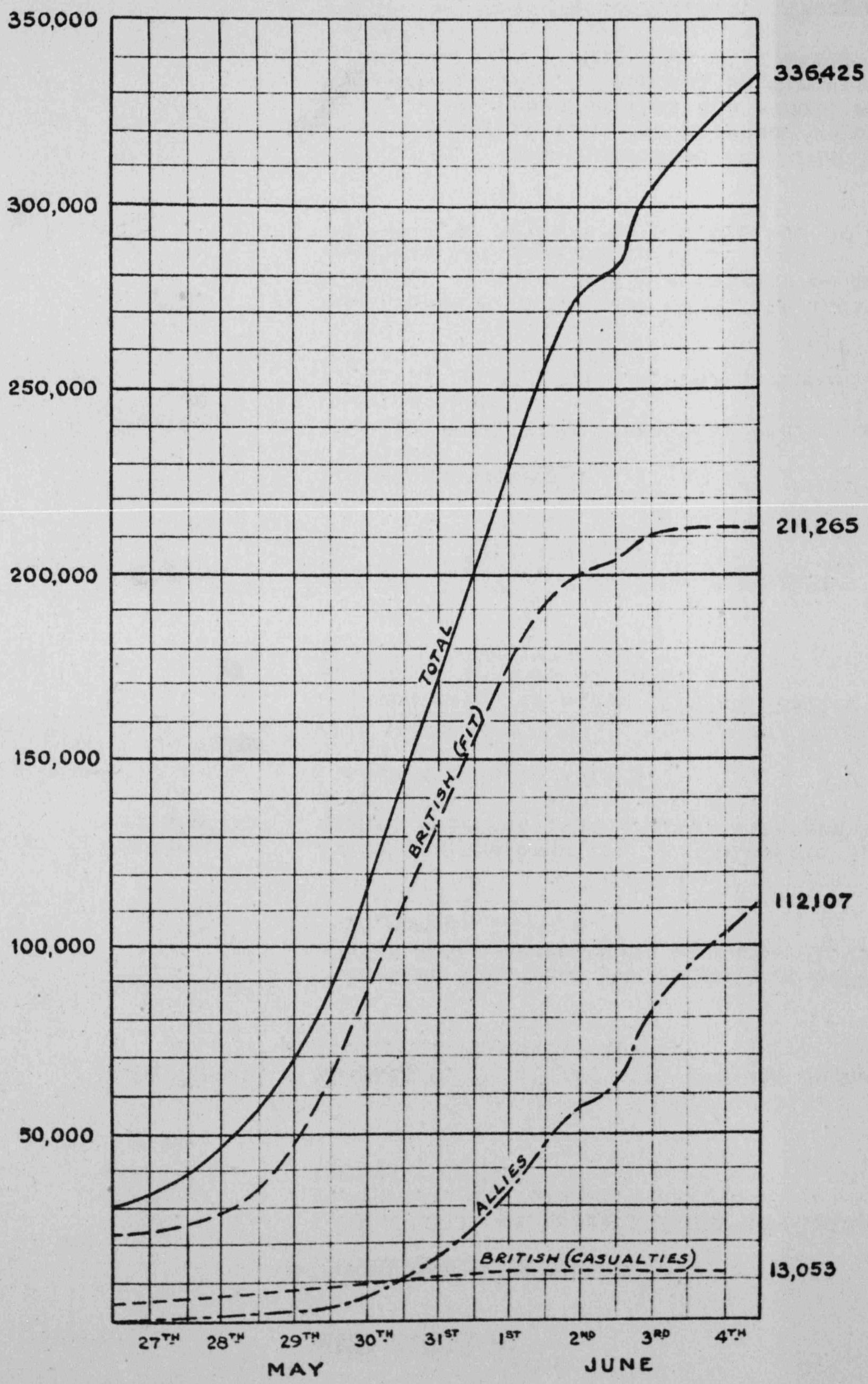
Shipping & Convoys.

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|---|---|
| ORBITA. | Due Liverpool 11/9 Personnel, etc. Requires docking board. (D.S.T., 0208A/8 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool.) |
| W.S.12. | Now proposed DUCHESS OF ATHOLL be included in W.S.12. Request every endeavour be made to complete her repairs in time. (D. of S.T. 0210A/8 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland.) |
| CHANTILLY KOSCIASZKO | My 0258/3. Now understood that CHANTILLY will not be ready in time for proposed voyage on 22/9. Now proposed that she should sail probably on 2/10. Request confirmation that she can be ready. KOSCIASZKO will still be sailed on 22/9. (D.of S.T. 0212A/8 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool.) |

/F.N., F.S., etc...

# WITHDRAWAL FROM FLANDERS.

## Numbers counted in to trains in British Ports.




I.S.P.S. 5/6/40

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

F.N., F.S., etc. Forecast of sailings. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1200/8.) See Lion Copy. Harwich additional escorts. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1614A/8.) See Lion Copy.

Rescue of Survivors. Addition to Western Approaches Convoy Instructions. (C. in C.W.A. 1706A/8.)See Lion Copy.

N.E. Coast Cycle. Your 1901A/7. No objection is seen to this arrangement but the change cannot be made for a few days.
(C. in C. Nore, 1721A/8 to Admty.)
Your 1901A/7. This presents no difficulty, propose to commence cycle on 14/9 running F.S.95 medium on that day, 15/9, being a Methil blank day. E.C.75 medium to run on 17/9, 18/9 being a Southend blank day. For the benefit of ships from Tyne it is desired that the first Northbound convoy after a blank day shall not be fast.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2030/8, to Admty.)

HARMONIC RIVER AFTON. My 2312A/4. It is intended to sail HARMONIC and RIVER AFTON in O.N.16 to join this convoy.
(D.T.D. 1735A/8 to A.C.I.C., B.S.N.O.,Murmansk, Adm. Miles.)
HARMONIC and RIVER AFTON should be sailed in O.N.16 to Hvaalfjord for onward convoy to Archangel.
(D.T.D. 1802A/8 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

O.N.Convoys. Following changes should be made in sailing of O.N. convoys: O.N.18 (fast) sail Liverpool 19/9 and then every six days. O.N.S.19 sail Liverpool 21/9 and then every six days. Requested that after 19/9, odd numbered O.N. Convoys should be designated O.N.S.
(D.T.D. 1743A/8 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.84. paravanes. Your 1230A/7/9/41. Vessel BEREBY is not now fitted with P.V. A frame was badly damaged and removed by Hull. BOTHNIA. P.V. bridles inaccurately shackled on. P.V. on board overdue for overhaul.
(D.E.M.S.Staff Officer Liverpool 1800/8 to Admty.)

Thurso-Hull Service. My 2047A/6 and C. in C. Rosyth's 0759/8. Request you will consider sailing these ships so as to cross the Moray Firth during dark hours.Consideration is being given to running a shuttle service of two extra guns and military gunners per ship between Thurso and Hull.
(D.T.D. 2109A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.1941. Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### General.

Leave and Refit. HAWKINS, GLASGOW, DRAGON.

In order that ships' companies may not spend an undue time abroad without leave it is intended to initiate a system of reliefs which will continue so long as the international situation does not further deteriorate.
2. As a first move (a) C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail HAWKINS to U.K. for leave and short refit as soon as GLASGOW is ready for service. (b) C. in C. South Atlantic is requested to sail DRAGON on completion of refit to relieve one of the China 'D' Class cruisers selected by C. in C. China.
3. Local adjustments to the returning ships' companies may be made as considered desirable by Cs. in C. concerned.
(1st S.L., 0001A/8, to Cs. in C. S.A. E.I., China).

### North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN, suspicious convoy.

Admty 1727A/6. If nothing is seen in the vicinity of Gran Canaria proceed forthwith to vicinity of Cape Verde. If Convoy speed was 8 knots it should arrive Dakar by early A.M./10.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0020A/8 to DUNEDIN).
Your 0020A/8. Nothing to report to southward of Canary Islands and in vicinity of Santa Cruz Teneriffe and Las Palmas. My position 1200Z/8 026° 51' N., 015° 37' W., speed of advnace 18 knots Refuelling at Bathurst p.m./10 is essential.
(DUNEDIN, 1203Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)(See also South Atlantic, 1603/8 etc).

CROOME.

Bow damaged, am returning to Gibraltar with survivors. (CROOME, 0847/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.D. Note:- Action with Italian U/B. See U-boat Campaign.

Enemy Unit.

Following is a repetition of my 1207A/8 D/F Bearing at 0820A/8 indicates enemy unit in vicinity of Cape Finisterre. (F.O.C.N.A., 1417A/8 to N.A. Stn).

/CLYDE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

CLYDE PROTEUS. Situation 2000A/8 CLYDE 035° 28' 009° 40' through 036° 00' 007° 00'. E.T.A. off Spartel 1200A/9 PROTEUS 037° 15' 010° 30' through 036° 35' 009° 00'. E.T.A. off Spartel 1700A/9. Escort will be motor launch. (F.O.C.N.A. 1436A/8 to CLYDE, PROTEUS.)
My P.C. and S. at 2100A/8 041° 35' 010° 54' 187° 12 knots. Earliest time of arrival position (R) 1700A/10. (PROTEUS 2101A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.21. Return to (? Gibraltar) forthwith south of Sardinia, north of Balearic Islands thence (?within) 25 miles of Spanish coast. Report P.C. and S. when north of Minorca.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1510A/8 to S/M O.21.)

Spanish Ships. Protest by Spanish Consul-General against seizure. (Govr. (Lord Gort) to S. of S. for Colonies, No T.O.O./8) See Lion Copy.

HIGHLANDER. A.M. 2358A/7. On (?parting company) pass through position 043° 00' N., 019° 00' W. Repeat P.C. and S. when not less than 100 miles from REPULSE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1826A/8 to HIGHLANDER.)

PHILANTE wreck. At 0400A/7 in 038° 32' N., 023° 26' W., passed drifting yard craft apparently large pile driver in good condition consisting of raft hull about 60 by 40 feet, steel lattice tripod, large engine house at one end. No one seen on board. Has lettering on hull and engine house but words not distinguished. Danger to navigation.
(PHILANTE, 1927A/8 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

FURY. My 1828A/7. (re FURY to join O.G.73) Ship not met, air R/C during last three days has failed (to? Locate). No signal on crossing 25° 00' W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2254A/8 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian Whalers.

Your 1432/5. Understand personnel are still in South Georgia preparing to proceed to South Africa in first Flight of Whale Catchers. They will then require to return to South Georgia. (D.S.T. 0136A/8 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

Escort Orders O.S.4 S.L.86

Your 1200Z/7. Following is a repetition of my 2033N/5 addressed VANSITTART, GORLESTON. My 1913/3. Amend O.S.4 R/V to 018° 20' N., 020° W., at 0800/10. (C. in C. S.A., 0233N/8 to GORLESTON).

158 M/S Group.

Your 2135/6/9. CORDELIA, NORSE, and LORD IRWIN are on passage Walvis Bay to Capetown. E.T.A. A.M./10. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0825Z/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

REPULSE etc. W.S.11.

Oiler RAPIDOL oil inadequate. NESTOR proceeding Bathurst for fuel E.T.A. 0800Z/11. REPULSE cannot exceed 15 knots and reach Freetown, may have to go to Bathurst. SUTLEJ and HIGHLANDER will arrive Bathurst for fuel 12th. Request local escor may meet as far West as possible. Admty 2358A/7. Intend to retain HIGHLANDER until NESTOR rejoins. (?East) portion position "F" is 0200Z/11. (REPULSE, 0900Z/8 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0900Z/8. Undesirable that REPULSE should fuel off Bathurst but oiler LISS can R/V off the harbour if necessary. Destroyers should be retained until arrival Freetown, If possible. N.O.I.C. Bathurst is to keep LISS at short notice and use M.L.'s for A/S screen. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be sent to join convoy 11/9 in case REPULSE has to leave. (C. in C. S.A., 2247N/8 to REPULSE).

ALCANTARA.

Circumstances permitting R/V with BROOMDALE at sea R/V "Henrietta" p.m./11 to carry out fuelling trails vide my 1938/27/8. Yourshould embark 500 tons fuel if possible. BROOMDALE must leave so as to be at sea R/V "Orange" a.m./18. Then resume on K.32 K.33. (R.A.S.A.D., 1028Z/8 to ALCANTARA).

KONGSDAL.

Overdue shipping. KONGSDAL due Lourenco Marques 3/9 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1033B/8).

/CITY OF.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

**CITY OF JOHANNESBURGH, "Q" Report.**

Your 1856N/7. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG made QQQQ at 2014Z/6 from Mozambique Channel. Message cancelled in P/L. at 2112Z/6 and in M.N.C. at 1650/7. QQ intercepted in U.K. at 2040Z/6. Suggest signals heard by Takoradi and Lagos at 2123Z/6 were broadcast of CITY OF JOHANNESBURG's message. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1107A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

**ARNDALE.**

Admty 1048/2. Please sail ARNDALE for sea R/V with PERCIVAL (Rio de Janeiro area) when ready. Request you ensure that she carries sufficient 5 inch hose for stirrup fuelling etc. (R.A.S.A.D., 1233Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

**Cable Operation.**

Your 1255A/20/8 and my 2311N/24/8. MILFORD reports operation of cutting cable completed. LADY DENISON PENDER E.T.A. St. Helena 14/9 for fuel then proceeds Capetown to dock. (C. in C. S.A., 1327N/8 to Admty).

**Bathurst port facilities.**

Reported that facilities at Bathurst for obtaining fresh and dry provisions are inadequate for regular use of this port as a terminal port for Ocean Escorts. Facilities for obtaining fresh water are also unsatisfactory. Local Authorities most helpful but are handicapped by lack of supplies and insufficient notice of arrivals of ships, and of their requirements. (C. in C. W.A., 1337A/8 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply, 0421/10.

**C.M.18 AUSTRALIA.**

C. in C. E.I., 0700/30/8. Durban departures, AUSTRALIA escorting convoy C.M.18. E.T.A. position J 1400 G.M.T./15 E.T.A. AUSTRALIA at Aden 0200 G.M.T./16. (N.L.O. Durban, 1337Z/8 to C. in C. E.I. etc) Convoy sailing telegram C.M.18. (MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM) (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1315Z/8).

**GAZCON intercepted.**

Vichy French Merchant vessel GAZCON intercepted by ALBATROSS is being taken to Lagos in detention with armed guard on board, E.T.A. about 0900 G.M.T/10. Armed guard may be retained until arrangements made for crew and any passengers to be accommodated on shore but should then be returned Freetown at first opportunity. Request details of passengers and cargo may be telegraphed to S. of S. Admty, and to me as soon as practicable. (C. in C. S.A., 1347N/8 to Govr. Nigeria).

/REVENGE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

REVENGE. Ref. REVENGE's 1155Z/3, request arrangements be made for docking REVENGE about 15/9 to carry out repairs to damaged Starboard Bulges. Please confirm. (D. of D., 1548A/8 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

DUNEDIN search. F.O.C.N.A.'s 0020A/8. Request you will arrange for aircraft from Bathurst to co-operate in search by DUNEDIN. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1603A/8 to C. in C. S.A). Admty 1603A/8 Sunderlands from Bathurst will search area 016° 30' to 017° 30'N and 018° to 020° W., in daylight tomorrow, 9/9. (C. in C. S.A. 1815N/8 to DUNEDIN).
My 1815N/8. One Hudson will be searching area 17° to 18° N., 23° to 25°W., p.m./9.
(C. in C. S.A., 2201N/8 to DUNEDIN).

Dispositions. Your 1233A/7/9. Forces available at Freetown, CHESHIRE and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE at short notice, VELOX and ORESTES sailing 9/9 to join escort W.S.11 Fast. BRILLIANT required for S.L.87 14/9. Force EAGLE and DORSETSHIRE in position "Zeal" 6/9 then proceeding as in my 2037N/6/9.
(C. in C. S.A., 1749N/8 to Admty).

C.M.17 It was intended to sail NIEUW HOLLAND and THYSVILLE with C.M.17 from Durban on 11/9 but Durban now reports former has had accidant to windlass which necessitates ten days repair and latter has defective boilers needing extensive repair. As Middle East urgently requires personnel allocated for these ships request I may be allowed to utilise EASTERN PRINCE now loading homeward at Durban to embark at least those most urgently required and take them to Suez.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1751Z/8 to D. of S.T.)
See 1402/10.

Oil Uruguay. Uruguay Govt. have issued new oil fuel decree which prohibits private oil companies from exporting fuel but permits them to carry bunkering subject to prior authorization of Ministry of Industries who will take into account total stock of fuel in country. No difficulties yet experienced by ships requiring bunkers.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo ?2206/8 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

PERSEUS, TORBAY. — Understand your 0427/8 (N.T. in W.D.) Well done nice first innings. Approved to enter swept-channel 1000 (2 corrupt groups).
TORBAY encountered U-boat in 032° 42' 028° 55' course 105° at 1335C/7. Blenheim A/C hunting it todsy. (Capt. S.1. 0827/8 to PERSEUS).

Enemy Tanker. — Tanker 3000 tons due Benghazi 1800C/8. She arrives at position 16 miles 310° from Benghazi light at 1630C (?on) course 200° speed 9 knots. (Capt. S.1. 0937C/8 to THUNDERBOLT).

Schooners as "Q" Ships. — Recent sightings confirm that schooners are being used as Q ships and often appear to work in pairs. (Capt. S.1. 1045C/8 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Tobruk mines. — C. in C's. 1850C/25/8. Weekly report ending Noon/8. One acoustic mine swept by sweeper. One unknown type self detonating.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1058C/8 to Admty).

Air Report. — 1. Following are details damage from enemy raid 6/7 Abu Sueir, Ismailia. Night 7/8, Suez twice bombed by a total of approx. 24 aircraft. Hurricanes on layer patrols made no interceptions. (see 1325/8).
6/9. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Stronglo and Kythera causing no damage or casualties and departed N.W. towards Turkish coast. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1121/8).

Benghazi, etc bombed. — Night 6/7. 15 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. One aircraft subsequently bombed Barce. 9 Albacores bombed Tmimi Gazala North Gazala South and Martuba landing grounds.
Day 7/9. 9 Marylands bombed 4 heavy guns east of Tobruk. No direct hits.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1154/8).

OSIRIS, OTUS. — After daylight R/C of Apollonia and Ras-al-Hilal on 9th proceed through 033° 14' 025° (?30') to enter Alexandria Sanctuary 0600C/12. OTUS E.T.A. Sanctuary 0600C/11 from position 180° Gavdo 17. (Capt. S.1. 1215C/8 to OSIRIS).

/Suez Raids.....

War Diary. 8.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Suez Raids. Ref. C.A.F.O. 587, first Raid (a) Night 7/8, calm clear (b) High (?level attack) 2144 - 0004 by 14 enemy A/C on Suez, no flares, bright moon (c) H.E. (d) 7 X.B. and 3 U.X.B. (e) No Naval damage, one R.M. killed, minor civil damage. (f) No fighters up (g) Balloons up. 2nd Raid. (a) As above (b) High low and dive bombing by 10 enemy A/C 0320 - 0500 on Suez. No (?Flares) bright moon. (c) H.E. (d) 7 X.B. one U.X.B. (e) No damage or casualties (?a) shell Refinery closed down due to U.X.B. (f) No fighters up (g) Balloons flying (k) one plane dropped 4 bombs Abu Sueir aerodrome, very slight damage, no casualties. During both raids 15 fighters patrolling Ismailia Area. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1325C/8 to Admty).

Operation "Status". A/S Trawler BERYL will be in position 255 Cape San Dimitry 20 by 0900B of D.2. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1425B/8 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H).

Black Sea, Threat to Turkey. To D.M.I. from MacFarlane. Presume Admty have passed to you L.O. Black Sea 1917C/7 which is most important. Previous Russian appreciations of possible action against Turkey seem nearer the mark than yours. (30 M.M. Moscow, 1441/8 to W.O.) Talk with Turkish Ambassador (30 M.M. Moscow, 1511/8).

TORBAY Dardanelles Patrol. Proceed through Zea and Doro Channels to establish patrol until further instructions off Dardanelles in area North of 39° 30' and East 25° 00'. (Capt. S.1. 1530C/8 to TORBAY.)

Black Sea. Intelligence, possible German seaborne expedition against Russia. (W.O. 1615/8 to No. 30 Moscow amended 1950/10) See Lion Copy.

GOS II, GOS III. Your 2003/6. In view of increased scale of aircraft minelaying in Suez Bay and approaches and that at present there appears to be no threat to Persian Gulf, is it still considered necessary to divert GOS II and GOS III to Basra? (C. in C. Med., 1620C/8 to Admty).

/BALCIC.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

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| BALCIC, MAYA, ALBA JULIA, (S/M attack). Use of Corinth Canal. | Following from Master of Roumanian BALCIC, grade C.4. (a) Ship in company with tanker MAYA passed from Italy through Corinth Canal (comment: MAYA in ballast and BALCIC lightly loaded and drawing about 15 feet) (b) Submarine attack outside Dardanelles at 07300/4 MAYA sunk and BALCIC avoided torpedo. (Can you confirm) (c) ALBA JULIA loading Piraeus for Crete. (d) BALCIC sailed from Trieste in convoy of 7 ships with light surface trawlers heavy Air escort. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1747/8 to S.O.(I) Med). N.I.D. Comment. MAYA is an Italian Tanker of 5867 tons. BALCIC is a Roumanian Tanker of 3600 tons. This is the first information received in N.I.D. that the Corinth Canal which was damaged by two bombing attacks in August, is again open to Traffic It was considered that there would be an interruption of traffic for at least six weeks from the date of the last attack on 13/14/8. If this report is correct the repairs must have been completed more rapidly than was expected. |
| Enemy Convoy. | One A.M.C. one Tanker 2 Merchant Ships P.C. and S. 12 miles from Cavoli Island (?knots) 8 Southbound. (O.21 1800Z/8, to S.O.(S) Malta). |
| Troop Movement. | C. in C. S.A.'s 2015N/4 (re Movement of Gold Coast Brigade) my 1230/3. Request you allocate shipping. (S.T.O. Egypt, 1831/8 to D. of S.T.) |
| R.N. drafts. | A total of about 800 R.N. will be embarked ex Suez for U.K. in returning ships of O.M.18 and W.S. 10 X. or O.M. 17. Request disposal of STRATHMORE, STRATHNAVER, ORION. Can three ships mentioned in your 0349A/5/9 (eight) be used for R.N. drafts to U.K. (S.T.O. Egypt, 1834/8 to D.S.T.) |
| PROVIDENCE bombed. | For British Admty. A bomb from unknown Aircraft has fallen near Convoy B. 34° 25' N., 28° 02' E. (PROVIDENCE, 1930/8 to all ships). |
| SUFFREN. | Proposal of Adm. Godfroy for relief of married men in ship's company. (C. in C. Med., 2004C/8 to Admty) See Lion Copy. |

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation report 142.

Destroyers at sea between Alexandria and Haifa hunting U-boat reported by TORBAY steering eastward from 32° 42'N 28°55' E., at 1330/7.
2. Western Desert. Supply to Tobruk by destroyers has been restarted. TALISMAN reports opening fire with gun on two motor lighters off Benghazi 30th. Both hit and one possibly sunk.
5. Submarines. On 30/8 UNBEATEN torpedoed and sank large schooner suspected acting as Q ship near Straits of Messina. (C. in C. Med., 2352C/8).

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ARONDA
RANGITIKI.

Your 1230/6 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1146/6. ARONDA is proceeding to India with personnel for India ex CAMERONIA. RANGITIKI is proceeding to Suez. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0207A/8 to P.S.T.O. India.)

REPULSE.

Your 0303/7. (0503/7 intended.) I intend REPULSE to come Ceylon area as soon as possible. Earliest date for a visit to Singapore. Fully appreciate the propaganda value of such a visit.
(C. in C. E.I., 0818Z/8, to C. in C. China.)

Repair of M.L's.

Your 0401/7. Request whether major overhauls of ten Hall Scott engines could be undertaken at Bombay per month in addition to those based on Bombay. (C. in C.E.I., 1112Z/8, to F.O.C.R.I.)

Kardiva Channel.

Cancel my 0820/30/4. Ships may now be routed through Kardiva Channel.
(C. in C.E.I., 1118Z/8 to C. in C. China etc.)

FALMOUTH.
SHOREHAM.
SUTLEJ.
JUMNA.

Admty., 1831/7 crossed my 1540/7. It must be appreciated that FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM are not adequately armed for A/A defence, particularly in regard to short range weapons. I intend however to send both ships to Aden as soon as possible and am asking C. in C. Med., if he can do anything to augment their short range armament. Unfortunate that YARRA, by far (? the) better equipped ship, is not available. She is (? about to) start (? her) refit at Bombay already well overdue. Requested that SUTLEJ and JUMNA may be sent to reinforce Red Sea Force as soon as possible.
(C. in C.E.I., 1132Z/8, to Admty.)

Trincomalee.

Reply to C. in C.E.I., 1320Z/27/8, re facilities.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1221A/8 to C. in C.E.I.)
(See Operations Volume.)

EMERALD.

Following patrol for interception of Vichy French Shipping has been ordered for EMERALD. Leave Seychelles p.m./9 patrol between Cape Amber and Saya de Malha Bank returning p.m./13.
(C. in C.E.I., 1438Z/8, to Admty.)

/MARIENFELS.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

MARIENFELS.
HOHENFELS.

My 1302/7. MARIENFELS sailed from Bandar Shahpur 0600 G.M.T./8. HOHENFELS is the only ship remaining. (C. in C. E.I. 1456Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

Anchorages.

Your 2023/6 repeating your 2206/5. Anchorage F, 027° 49' 035° 57' SHA (?B) ALI. Dispersal anchorage also established, G 027° 47' 033° 38', ASHRAFI, and H 027° 38' 033° 44' TOWILA. (S.N.O.R.S. 1509Z/8 to Admty.)

Seamen ex BRITANNIC STRATHALLAN.

Your 0621/31/8. The 248 Mercantile Marine should be divided between the two ships as evenly as is possible without splitting any single crew. Remainder may be embarked in one ship or divided, as convenient. (D.O.D.(F) 1818A/8 to S.S.T.O. India.)

China.

Vichy Convoy.

My 0343/6 and 0301/7 Saigon Departure 6/9 French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER. May be in company with COMPIEGNE. French Submarine MONGE and French ships CAP TOURANE and LE CONTE DE LISLE may join convoy but are not yet reported sailed. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0231Z/8, to Admty.)
My 0231/8. Saigon departures 6/9 CAP TOURANE, SIKIANG. Now reported that destination of above ships and COMPIEGNE believed to be Madagascar. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0501Z/8 to Admty.)

Fairmiles, etc.

Your 1727/29 para. (iv). Special repair facilities not required on China Station. Action being taken to acquire all available spares. (C. in C. China, 0517Z/8 to Admty.)

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER.

Arrived 8/9. (Saigon 1011Z/8 to M. of W.T.)

Singapore Straits - danger area

The following additional areas in the Western Approaches are dangerous to shipping by mines. Vessels entering these areas do so at their own risk. Areas enclosed by lines from No 4 beacon 001° 15' 14" N. 103° 45' 06" E. in a direction 276° for two point two miles. Thence in a

/direction

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore Straits - danger area contd.

360° to the coast of Pulo Ayer Merbau, and from No.4 beacon in a direction 360° for 0.68 miles, thence in a direction 270° to the coast of Pulo Ayer Merbau. Area (B) is enclosed by lines from position 01° 13' 34" N., 103° 46' 33" E on the S.E. coast of Pulo Nuko in two directions (1) 119° for 0.9 miles, thence 160° to coast of Pulo Sebarok.
(2) In a direction 180° to coast of Pulo Sakeng, thence in a direction 104° to the S.E. point of Pulo Sebarok.
(R.A. Malaya 1151/8.)

America and West Indies.

NEWCASTLE. E.T.A. 0600/9 DURBAN CASTLE and QUEEN OF BERMUDA in company. (NEWCASTLE, 0123Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)
NEWCASTLE 0056Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.). If desired PRINCE DAVID now at Bermuda is available as additional escort for DURBAN CASTLE in place of NEWCASTLE, and could R/V as convenient to QUEEN OF BERMUDA between position (a) and (b) in my 1132Q/7. If Admiralty require this, request time and position of R/V be communicated by N.O.I.C. Trinidad when time of sailing is known. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1119Q/8 to Admty.) Reply: 1102/9.

TULIP CLARKIA. C. in C. W.A. 1708A/7. Request you will sail TULIP and CLARKIA for Bermuda when ready and report anticipated date. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/8 to B.A.R.M.)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL WARWICK CASTLE. Ref. A.M.1848/18/8. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has been unable to leave Clyde owing to engine defects. Proposed that the 1500 personnel for Middle East now at Halifax ex WARWICK CASTLE should be on-carried in WARWICK CASTLE herself. Immediate report has been called for as to her earliest -possible firm date of sailing from Halifax. When promulgated, C. in C. A. and W.I. and C. in C. S.A. are requested to report whether escort can be provided for the voyage from Halifax. (D.O.D.(F) 1036A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A.)

LE TRIOM-PHANT. My 1234/6. Amended hour of arrival Honolulu 1700/12. (Consul, Los Angeles, 1121/8 to Admty.)

/MORSEMAN

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

NORSEMAN. Your 1125Q/7 approved. Cable and Wireless head office have been consulted and agree. (D.S.D. 1142A/8 to F.O.I.C. Trinidad)

Barge Sunk. H.M. Tug PRUDENT returned St. Johns 7/9 found barge No.11 which was taken in tow and again broke adrift in following gale and foundered. (C.C.N.F., 1147Z/8 to Admty.)

WARSPITE, Press interviews. Your 2202/8 to WARSPITE and my 2140R/12 to Admty. Request that proposals for interviews by Officers in Ships refitting in the U.S.A. to be given to Newspaper representatives should in future be passed to N.A. Washington for concurrence of U.S. Navy Dept. prior to instructions being given to ship so that simultaneous release to all newspapers may be given. (B.A.R.M. 1152R/8 to Admty.)

Suspicious Ship. Following from U.S. Authorities. American S.S. ROBIN HOOD at 2200Z/7 in 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W was approached within 2 miles by a large vessel low in water steering 016° at slow speed. Ship carried navigation lights and illuminated flag aft which was indistinct. When abeam vessel hove to heading E. and then made various alterations of course. Vessel was deemed suspicious although ROBIN HOOD was not spoken to nor molested. American WINDRUSH and SCHOHARIE were in area at this time Northbound but were light. (B.A.D., 1251R/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DIANTHUS GLADIOLUS. A.M. 1231A/7. Propose DIANTHUS and GLADIOLUS follow PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM. DIANTHUS can arrive Charleston 25/9 and GLADIOLUS by about 27/9. (C.C.N.F. 1252Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

BANGOR Minesweepers. Your 1656Z/19/5. Proposals re manning. (D.P.S. 1341A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N. Escorts. Request names of escorts of O.N.12. C. in C. W.A. 1630A/6 implies BROADWATER with this convoy. Presume this should be BROADWAY. If no objections request escorts of future O.N. Convoys be sailed as follows: Group 20 with O.N.14, Group 24 and SAINT CROIX if ready with O.N.15. MOOSEJAW and Group 23 less CHESTERFIELD with O.N.16. RICHMOND and Group 22 less RAMSEY with O.N.17. My 0237Z/8. Following escort for O.N.18 or O.N.19 whichever is R.C. Navy escorted:- ARROWHEAD, AGASSIZ, LEVIS, MAYFLOWER, and either OTTAWA or SAGUENAY. (C.C.N.F.1353Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

/EMPRESS

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

EMPRESS OF ASIA. My 2122Z/5 (N.T. in W.R.) Confirm EMPRESS OF ASIA turn round U.K. can be carried out within three days. Personnel embark at Halifax afternoon 15/9 and ship sail H.X. 150 16/9.
(Ottawa, 1543Z/8 to D. of S.T.)
Midship from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. My 1543Z/8 further consideration of defects and serious crew situation Newfoundland indicates unwise to turn around in three days. Conclude minimum one week required for turnround and a further minimum of two weeks in U.K. or at next destination to complete refit. All possible work in hand on 24 hour basis and ship will sail in accordance with my 1543Z/8.
(N.C.S.O., Thursday Island, 1754Z/8 to D. of S.T.)

FORT RICHEPANSE, (torpedoed 3/9.) Your 2217A/4. Careful scrutiny of N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 2311Z/28 shows FORT RICHEPANSE reported leaving Sydney on date of signal i.e.28/8 Words "29th August" preceding name FORT RICHEPANSE refer to expected date of arrival Norwegian ship VICTO at Parrsboro, N.S. FORT RICHEPANSE having reported crossing 030° W., on 1/8 it appears that delay of only four hours at Sydney was not considered to have affected her original expected date of arrival Liverpool which nevertheless might well have been confirmed by Spain in reporting movements to Halifax for inclusion in Vesca (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1632Z/8 to Admty).

NEWFOUNDLAND. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1206/2. When fitting of NEWFOUNDLAND is complete she should be sailed for Freetown. She will be held at Freetown pending further instructions. Request anticipated sailing date from Halifax and arrival Freetown.
(D.S.T., 1712A/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

BURNHAM. Intend to sail BURNHAM at 2200Z/12 for Boston E.T.A. 1800R/16. (C.C.N.F., 1746Z/8 to B.A.R.M.)

ORANGELEAF. Your 1112Q/5. Dispositions and retention of ORANGELEAF approved. (4th S.L., 1926A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/U.S.N.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| U.S.N. Communications. | Your 1655R/5. Information received from Adm. Ghormley that Navy Dept. are prepared to pass information direct to selected British shore authorities on Western side of Atlantic provided these hold special settings for Type X. Is it the intention of Navy Dept. that these four authorities should reciprocally pass information direct to Opnav or through B.A.D. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1937A/8 to B.A.D.) |
| Corvettes, Trinidad. | Your 1030Q/5. Corvettes are fitted with Marconi type TW12. (details). (D.S.D., 2007A/8 to N.O.I.C Trinidad). |
| Suspicious ships, Easter Island. | My 17530/7. It has been suggested that this may have some connection with N.A. Santiago de Chile war despatch 4/41 dated 17/6 page 6, last para. et seq. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2139Q/8 to Admty). |
| U.S. Submarines. | Re proposed transfer. (B.A.D., 2149R/8 to Admty). See Lion Copy. |
| LE TRIOMPHANT. | Consul Los Angeles' 1234/6. Request information about deserters so as to counter enemy propoganda. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2225A/8 to N.A. Washington). |
| CARADOC. | My 10220/5. For 12/9 read 19/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2232Q/8 to Admty). |

### Australia and New Zealand.

| | |
|---|---|
| LE TRIOMPHANT. | When ready to sail leave Honolulu for Papeete direct. Report date of sailing and E.T.A. Papeete to N.Z.N.B. through British Consul Honolulu. (N.O. Wellington, 1240M/8 to LE TRIOMPHANT) (Repeated and corrected. 2131M/10). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941,
Monday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

ESSA (torpedoed 17/8). My 2251/7 (Panamanian ship ESSA torpedoed *17/8/41) approximate position was 061° 03' N., 034° 51' W. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1009/8 to Admty). *(N.T. in W.D.)

SESAPAREN (?ESSA). U.S.S. LANSDALE picked up three male survivors of S.S. SESAPAREN, Panamanian. Registry Paren in 61.05 N., 34.50 W. Ship was torpedoed 17/8 about 300 miles from Reykjavik proceeding to that port from New York. Survivors believe they are the only ones of crew of 53. Alusna Ottawa pass to C.N.S.Ottawa for additional action. (Spenavo, 1710/8 tc Admty).

### Submarines Reported.

Bearings at 0708 G.M.T. of Italian U-boat 78A. (D.D.I.C., 0840A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1117 C. By D/F at 1117C/8 enemy warship probably U-boat in 70° 41' N., 34°18' E. (S.E.N.O. Murmansk, 1251C/8 to Admty).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 1425A/8).

1235. Auxiliary Coast Guard at Sarclet Head (South of Wick) reports sighting object resembling Submarine at 1235 in position 3 miles N.E. of look-out. Seen on surface for one minute before submerging. Course N.E subsequent investigation reveals that object, which was sighted without binoculars was seen by Auxiliary Coast Guard only, and he is doubtful if it was a Submarine. Report graded C.5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1843/8 to Admty).

### Submarines Attacked.

By CROOME. 1 Submarine on the surface bearing 087 distance 4 miles, Course 180° 40.30 N., 21.15 W. (CROOME, 0732/8 to Gib., W/T).
Repeated on B.N. at 0807/8. 0738 has got My 0732 - 466 Submarine has dived. (CROOME, 0734/8)
Repeated on B.N. at 0810/8.
My 0732. Italian U-boat sunk. Am picking up survivors. (CROOME, 0834/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Bow damaged, am returning to Gibraltar with survivors. (CROOME, 0847/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
CROOME reports sinking Italian submarine in 040° 30' N., 021° 12' W., at 0830 picking up survivors. (F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/8 to Admty).
Well done. (C. in C. W.A., 1306A/8 to CROOME).

/By.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

By GORLESTON. Excellent submarine contact attacked 5 patterns in 024° 00' N., 020° 20' W., at 0555Z/?8. Nothing heard or seen. LULWORTH co-operating, rejoining. Dawn at 0645Z.
(GORLESTON, 0815Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C Am over enemy S/M in position 46.38 N., 10.57 W.
(D. A/C Home., 1006/8 to Call sign 9 R.L.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface and observed to submerge course 060°. Have attacked with depth charges. (D. A/C Home, 1020/8.)
(19 Group 1104/8 to all 19 Group Stns. etc).
A/C D/221 details of attack at 0950.
(Plymouth, 1700/8 1745/8, 1945/8 to Admty)
1745 in Lion Copy. 1945. (repetition of 1745) in Tiger Copy.

By A/C Am investigating suspicious object oil patch in position 46.48 N., 10.22 W. (A/C duty P.,1230/8 to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges - 2 hits - oil patch - My estimated time of arrival is 1725.
(A/C duty P., 1415/8 to 19 Group)

By Russian A/C. Following from Soviet Intelligence. (a) U-boat sighted on surface and attacked by A/C in 68° 35' N., 41° 50' E., at 1630C/4. Result not observed but (corrupt group) oil still coming to surface from this position after 48 hours.
(b) Buoy - probably S/M indicator buoy with marking "U 73" recovered vicinity 68° 05' N., 39° 40' E. Thought to be from S/M attacked in this vicinity 12/7. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1841C/8 to Admty).

By A/C Sunderland P/10 Squadron attacked oil patch in position 47.04 N., 10.31 W., with 4 D/C's. 2 explosions were definitely seen. A/C then circled round for 10 minutes, and noticed more oil appearing in circle of D/C disturbance. Capt. of A/C is of the opinion that U/B must have been damaged severely by attack of previous A/C as oil appeared to be particularly fresh, and free from scum as though an oil tank had been sprung.
(Plymouth, 1950/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Benedict". The operation of flying off aircraft for Russia from ARGUS, covered by 1st C.S. has been successfully completed.

M.T.B. attack on Convoy. Last night, and again in the early hours of this morning M.T.B's 35, 54 and 218 attacked off Gris Nez an enemy convoy of 2 merchant vessels with 4 escorts. In the first attack they badly damaged and perhaps sank a 3500 ton vessel and in the second attack they sank a 4000 ton ship. M.T.B. 35 was badly damaged and had to be beached at Ramsgate. M.G.B's 43 and 52 on patrol near the Varne closed and shadowed the convoy in the interval between the two attacks. They were attacked by 4 enemy fast craft; M.G.B.52 was damaged by gunfire; and M.G.B.43 is believed to have sunk one of the enemy with a depth charge; she has superficial damage.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft carried out a minor attack on Cherbourg docks last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. A.C. FIELDS was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon off Flamborough Head by aircraft, with torpedo and machine gun. VIMIERA drove off the enemy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Single mines were laid by aircraft off Copenhagen, Langeland Belt, Great Belt and Frisian Islands.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Status".

The first flight of aircraft in Operation "Status" left Force H. at 0653A today and at 1220B V.A. -Malta reported the arrival of 1 Blenheim and 14 Hurricanes.

The second flight was cancelled.

S.O. Force H. again stresses the unsuitability of Blenheims for this type of operation.

Mediterranean.

Messina bombed.

Eight Wellingtons attacked targets at Messina between 1918 and 2220 today.

Libya and Western Desert.

Destroyers were bombed last night whilst on passage to and from Tobruk. KIMBERLEY and DECOY were slightly damaged. The Mersa Matruh area was also bombed, damaging the railway.

Egypt and Suez Canal.

Enemy aircraft made 2 raids on Abu Sueir last night, and also raided Kasfareet and Ismailia; Abu Sueir aerodrome was rendered unserviceable by bomb craters.

S.S. GURNA was dive bombed without success in Bitter Lake.

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal suspects the use of a new type of combined H/E and incendiary bomb.
A single aircraft raided Alexandria shortly before midnight last night, but jettisoned his bombs into the sea.

/Cyprus

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Cyprus. About 7 aircraft dropped bombs in the sea off Kyrenia and Famagusta last night. Minelaying is not suspected.

Haifa. Haifa was raided by 4 planes early this morning, but no casualties and practically no damage caused and the port is open.

Corinth Canal. 23 Wellingtons bombed the Corinth Canal last night.

MAYA sunk C. in C. Med. reports that PERSEUS sank the Italian tanker MAYA on 5/9 off the Dardanelles.

America and West Indies.

DURBAN CASTLE. Admiralty have approved that PRINCE DAVID should relieve NEWCASTLE as additional escort for DURBAN CASTLE (with the King of Greece and suite on board). The latter arrived at Trinidad today, escorted by QUEEN OF BERMUDA and NEWCASTLE.

SHEHERAZADE. N.A. Madrid forwards today a protest by the French -Admty. against alleged bad treatment of the officers and crew of tanker SHEHERAZADE while detained ashore at Bermuda.

St. Johns N.F. On arrival for duty as accommodation ship at St. Johns N.F. S.S. GEORGIAN will be renamed H.M.C.S. AVALON II.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

New Zealand.

The German wireless having broadcast that 100 deserters from the Free French destroyer LE TRIOMPHANT broke ship at San Diego. Adm. Comdg. Free French Forces has asked for a report from her next port of call.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy S.C.42 — S.S. JEDMOOR in S.C.42 was attacked unsuccessfully p.m. today in mid-Atlantic. CHAMBLY, MOOSEJAW SKEENA and READING were ordered from Newfoundland to join and escort this convoy to Iceland if fuel permits, and A.C.I.C. was ordered to send 20th Group at best speed to meet the convoy, if available.

S.S. SESSA. — U.S.S. LANSDALE has picked up 3 survivors of Panamanian SESSA which was torpedoed on 17/8 in 61° 5' N. 34° 50' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

Iceland. — Army berthing, harbour, and accommodation requirements for next winter. Request you co-operate with G.O.C. and report. (V.C.N.S. 1129A/9 to A.C.I.C.) See Lion Copy.

Cruiser requirements. — Requirements for Cruisers in the immediate future are as follows. (V.C.N.S. 1342A/9.) (A.C.N.S.H. 1917A/9.) See Operations Volume.

TIGRIS torpedoes. — B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1801C/8 and F.O.S.1523A/9. In view of the possible requirements of TIGRIS it is considered most desirable to retain in U.K. eight of the forty torpedoes now being loaded. (F.O.S. 1524A/9.)

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

Clarification of certain points of policy. — My 1338A/8th. Add at end of paragraph two "and of activities of American aircraft". (C. in C.H.F. 1202A/9 to Adty.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

Fuel at Archangel White Sea Minesweeping. — Request information on following points (a) can we rely on fuel being available at Archangel for convoy escort and an occasional cruiser. (b) can Russian minesweeping arrangements at entrance of White Sea be regarded as reliable. (C. in C.H.F. 2203A/9 to Ad. Miles.)

### Defence of U.K.

Hvalfiord A/S Defences. — Your 2107/18/8. A/S vessels for local defence of Hvalfiord were intended to be used primarily as follows.
(a) 15th and 21st A/S Groups. Two at a time on patrol behind the indicator loops.
(b) 4th M.L.Flotilla. Two at a time on patrol to seaward of the H.D.A's in Hvalfiord.
(c) 106th M.L.Flotilla. One or two at a time on patrol inside the boom in Hvalfiord.
(D.A/S.W. 1859A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BEDOUIN
ESKIMO — BEDOUIN, ESKIMO R/V Hoxa Sound 0230 today and proceed with despatch to Seidisfiord Iceland. (R.A.D.H.F. 0015A/9 to BEDOUIN, ESKIMO.)

DUKE OF YORK. — Sailed DUKE OF YORK escorted by PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, ICARUS, and VIVACIOUS for Rosyth. Codeword "Branch". (N.O.I.C.Greenock 0638A/9.)

NEWARK. — E.T.A. Reykjavik 1030Z/9. (NEWARK 0830Z/9.)

WHITEHALL
WITCH. — Proceed at best speed to Londonderry forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 1156A/9 to WHITEHALL, WITCH.)

INDOMITABLE. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1435A/9.)

P.31.
O.10. — Your 1532/8/9. P.31 escorted by CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee. O.10 will be exercising in the Flow daily until further orders. (A.C.O.S. 1501/9.)
O.10 arrived. P.31 and CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee at 1500. (A.C.O.S. 1545/9.)

PENELOPE. — When released by DUKE OF YORK return to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 1523A/9 to PENELOPE.)

SHEFFIELD. — Admiralty 0035A/6th. Proceed to arrive Clyde A.M./11th. (C. in C.H.F. 1527A/9 to SHEFFIELD.)

MANXMAN. — R.A.(M) in MANXMAN will be leaving Scapa for Port Z.A. at 0900 tomorrow. (R.A.M. 1532A/9.)

CANTON
CATHAY.
(A.M.C's.) — My 1146A/1. Following forecast corrected to 8/9. For Freetown CANTON leave Clyde end of September. For Halifax CATHAY leave Clyde for U.S.A. via Halifax 20/9. (S.O.W.P. 1630A/9.)

/L.26 ALECTO....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

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INDOMITABLE. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1435A/9.)

P.31.
0.10. — Your 1532/8/9. P.31 escorted by CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee. 0.10 will be exercising in the Flow daily until further orders. (A.C.O.S. 1501/9.)
0.10 arrived. P.31 and CUTTY SARK sailed for Dundee at 1500. (A.C.O.S. 1545/9.)

PENELOPE. — When released by DUKE OF YORK return to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 1523A/9 to PENELOPE.)

SHEFFIELD. — Admiralty 0035A/6th. Proceed to arrive Clyde A.M./11th. (C. in C.H.F. 1527A/9 to SHEFFIELD.)

MANXMAN. — R.A.(M) in MANXMAN will be leaving Scapa for Port Z.A. at 0900 tomorrow. (R.A.M. 1532A/9.)

CANTON
CATHAY.
(A.M.C's.) — My 1146A/1. Following forecast corrected to 8/9. For Freetown CANTON leave Clyde end of September. For Halifax CATHAY leave Clyde for U.S.A. via Halifax 20/9. (S.O.W.P. 1630A/9.)

/L.26 ALECTO....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

L.26.
ALECTO.

At 0630A/12, intend to sail L.26 escorted by ALECTO to Devonport. E.T.A.0630A/14.
(Capt. S.7. 1753A/9.)
R.A.(M) 1532A/9. E.T.A. Port Z.A. 1530/10.
(MANXMAN 2007A/9.)

LONDON.

Proceed Hvoefjord with despatch and complete with fuel.
(C. in C. H.F. 2322A/9.)

Operations.

Operation "Benedict".

Their Lordships congratulate all concerned on the successful completion of operation BENEDICT.
(1st. S.L. 0015A/9 to C.S.1., ARGUS.)

Convoy C.W.49. and Dover shelled on 8/9.

Enemy coastal batteries fired eleven rounds between 2045 and 2106 yesterday. All fell on land in the Dover area. Some damage to house property. No casualties reported. C.W.49 was passing Dover at the time.
(V.A.Dover 0138A/9.)

Attack on Enemy Convoy off Blanc Nez on Night 8/9th Sept.
One 4000-Ton M/V sunk.
One Enemy Fast Craft and one 3500-Ton M/V believed sunk.

Convoy of 2 M/V's and 4 Escorts attacked by M.T.B's 35, 54, and 218 at 2350 and again at 0201, which badly damaged and perhaps sank. one 3500-Ton vessel in the first attack and sank one 4000-Ton vessel in the second. M.G.B's 43 and 52 on patrol near the Varne closed and shadowed the Convoy from 0115 for about one hour during which they were attacked by 4 Enemy fast craft. M.G.B.52 was damaged by gun-fire and M.G.B. 43 is believed to have sunk one Enemy Craft with a depth-charge. M.T.B.35 arrived Ramsgate at 0640 with S.O.6th Flotilla and one rating wounded, and the Boat was badly damaged and has been beached. M.G.B.52 was damaged, and M.G.B.43 has superficial damage and 2 casualties.
(V.A.Dover 0805A/9 and 1055A/9.)
See Lion Copy.
Arrival M.G.B. 52 at 1200. No casualties.
(Commodore, Sheerness 1230A/9.)

East Coast M.G.B.Patrols.

2 Motor Gunboats from Lowestoft on patrol in vicinity of South Leder Buoy. 1 (one) unit of Motor Gunboats from Harwich on patrol in vicinity of Brown Ridge.
(C. in C. Nore 0954A/9.)
My 0954/9. 3 M.T.B's return to Harwich from Eastward daylight Wednesday.
(C. in C.Nore 1535A/9 to Ships on Convoy duty.)

/C.S.1.....

War Diary. 9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

C.S.1.
SHROPSHIRE. Heat 1500 tons of oil and be prepared to fuel cruiser by 0200A/10. Leave G.G. for Hvalfjord at 1200A/11 if not met by that time.
(C. in C.H.F.1109A/9 to Oiler OLIGARCH.)

M.T.B.
Patrol off
Schelde. Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit (1) are to carry out a patrol tonight through the following position. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30 E., may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore 1316A/9 to BEEHIVE.)
Departures M.G.B's 64, 65, 58 at 1849 M.T.B's 31,34,30 at 1856.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1857A/9.)

A/S Patrol. An A/S patrol is to be carried out tonight and on subsequent nights until further orders by availableA/S trawlers. Movements. Leave St.Helens in time to clear searched channel before dark, and return into searched channel at daylight. Route. Along Q.Z.S. 271 eastward as far as possible and return. Object. To search for and destroy enemy submarines.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1803A/9.)

Attack by
E-Boats on
Night 6/7.
Trawlers
Reports. Following extracts from reports of H.M.Trawlers OSAKO and FORT ROSE on F.B.Patrol during night of 6/7 September when Convoy E.C.70 was attacked by E-Boats are forwarded pending written reports.
(C. in C. Nore 1836A/9.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. (c) BERT and STAB Patrols to be flown as offensive R/C's making use of cover afforded by bad weather on Norge coast. Suggested that landfalls should be made at about 1400 hours but time of patrols at discretion of Station Commander. (Pitreavie 1020/9.)
BERT and STAB in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1844/9.)

Height of
Balloon. Your A247/6/9, to Air Ministry. Operational height referred to was that allowed to ships in harbour, namely 300 feet.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1028A/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

/Your 1324A/9..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Height of Balloon. (Contd.)

Your 1324A/9. Following is text of my A247 6th Sept. Following received from C. in C. Portsmouth. Begins. A Kite Balloon will be flying at operational height from a Merchant ship at anchor in Cowes Roads from 1900/5/9 until P.M.8/9/41 1900A/5.Ends. As this is contrary to regulations and no reason stated request investigation.
(H.Q.F.C. 1738/9 to Adty.)

NIGERIA Escort.

Request fighter and A/S air escort during daylight 10th. Codeword "Fallow".
(C. in C.H.F.1058A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Expect A/S air escort from first light by one sortie single Whitley followed by sorties of single Hudsons. Fighter escort from first light by sorties single Blenheims.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2352/9 to S.O.Force A.)

DUKE OF YORK Escort.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of DUKE OF YORK and PENELOPE.
(Rosyth W/T 1202/9.)

2 Enemy Tugs, sunk.
1 Tug damaged.
Barges sunk.

On 8/9 Blenheims attacked 2 Tugs and a string of Barges between Guernsey and Sark. One Barge received a direct hit, the stern of another was lifted out of the water from a near miss, and other bursts were observed close to the Barges. Fighters also carried out an attack with Cannon and Machine Gun Fire and reported that one Tug blew up, another Tug was seen to be on fire, while several Barges were seen to sink.
(H.Q.B.C.1450/9.)

A/C for RODNEY.

RODNEY's Walrus with personnel and aircraft spares to be embarked in SHEFFIELD in the Clyde by 12/9 for passage to Gibraltar.
(Hd. of Air Branch 2000A/9.)

Enemy Air Activity.

A.C.FIELDS attacked.

One enemy A/C, height 5000 feet, position 54°12' N., 0°6'W.(VIMIERA 1440/9.)
My 1440. Enemy aircraft attacked with torpedo and machine gun fire independently routed S.S. A.C.FIELDS at 18 buoy. Engaged and driven off by H.M.S.VIMIERA. Torpedo missed close astern A.C.FIELDS who is proceeding Robin Hood Bay.
(VIMIERA 1503A/9.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.9.41.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

Spurn Point. — One Mine self detonated and 2 others were detonated by Sweepers on 8/9. Details. F.O.Humber 0900A/9.)

Firth of Forth. — Latest searched approach Channel Firth of Forth as follows. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 1431/9.)

### Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER. — SCHEER reported to be leaving Oslo 8/9 for Stavanger and Trondjhem. Graded B.4. (N.A.Stockholm 1741/9.)(D.D.I.C.2133A/9.)
N.I.D.Comment.
SCHEER was located at Oslo on 5th. There has been no R/C today.

### Miscellaneous.

Faroes-Iceland Cable broken. — Cable from Faroes to Iceland was broken on 7/9 and I have now established that this was done by BARDALAND which anchored foul of cable when ordered in for examination. The ship parted telegraph cable when weighing but took no steps either to report the matter or buoy position. Request you will ask Swedish Authorities in London to ascertain as early as possible the ship's anchor bearing so that recovery and repairs to cable may be hastened.
(N.O.I.C.Faroes 0915A/9.)

### Casualties & Defects.

NIGERIA. (Damaged 7/9.) — Your 2316A 8th. LONDON sails 0330Z/9. Tug SALVONIA sails 0130Z thereto southabout towards Seidis Fiord. Air escort by Catalina will be provided weather permitting.
(N.O.I.C.Iceland 0119/9 to C. in C.H.F.)
My 2346A/8. NIGERIA's course should read 245°.
(C. in C.H.F. 0217A/9 to R.A.D.H.F.)
C. in C.H.F. 2316A/8. Sea moderating. Thick fog. Bulkhead holding well. P.C.S. 067° 57' N., 008° 58' W., 165°, 12 knots.
(S.O.Force A. 0245A/9.)
Am heading South. Tug not required thankyou.
(S.O.Force A 0606A/9 to A.C.I.C.)
S.O.Force A's 0245A/9th. Join S.O.Force A.
(C. in C.H.F. 0827A/9 to BEDOUIN.)
My 0119/9. Salvage tug returning Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C.0935/9 to C. in C.H.F.)

/LE TIGER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. Contd.

LE TIGER (Escort Trawler.) ashore.

Following received from LE TIGER begins: Ashore at Iasgair Island, Making little water. Hope to float at high water. Ends. T.O.0.0300A/9.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea 0529A/9.)
Your 0300A/9. Report situation at high water. If unable to refloat, assistance will be sent.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1059A/9 to LE TIGER.)

BARDALE, EMERAUDE, HAMLA, ashore.

Following ships aground west side Fladda Shuain BARDALE EMERAUDE HAMLA. BARDALE requests tugs immediately, unable to refloat, forecastle full, making water in number 1 hold.
(POLKA 1109/9.)
Sailed Tug MARAUDER to assistance of ships, reported ashore in 057° 44' N., 006° 33.8'. W.
(N.O.I.C.Stornoway 1131A/9.)
Report situation on arrival and render whatever assistance is possible without danger to yourself.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1217A/9 to MARAUDER.)
Proceed to render whatever help is possible without endangering yourself. Report situation on arrival.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1347A/9 to SUPERMAN.)
Your 1102A/9. Stand by damaged ships until tug arrives.(C. in C.W.A.1348A/9 to POLKA.)
Am proceeding according to your 1348A/9.
(POLKA 1510/9 to C. in C.W.A.)
Drifter is being sent from Loch Alsh to assist with Weirs. Salvage Tug RANGER from Belfast and Admiralty Salvage representative are also proceeding to your assistance.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1525A/9 to MARAUDER, SUPERMAN.)

ST.MELLONS.

Sailing of Tug ST.MELLONS with H.M.T. EARL KITCHENER in tow postponed owing to grounding.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 1732A/9.)

M.L.214.

My 1710A/9. M.L 214 arrived back Humber at 1930. Defective Voltage Control.
(F.O.Humber 1952A/9.)

AUK (Grounded 8/9.)

Have refloated AUK. Ship requires assistance until (Survey A.M.) Standing by on request of master. Will comply with your 1347A/9 as soon as released. Tug RENE LE BESNERAIS has arrived but not connected.
(SUPERMAN 2100A/9 to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.84. paravanes.

Your 1230A/7. BARRDALE not fitted with P.V.'s HOLMPARK carried deck cargo which prevented streaming of P.V.'s. HARBERTON P.V.'s were rigged on wrong sides of ship and when streamed ran alongside. Master admonished and instructed for future reference.
(N.O.I.C.Oban 1035A/9 to Admty.)
16 British and 3 Allied ships in S.L.84, Commodore Baxter R.N.R. Cargoes.(D.S.735, 9/9.)

H.X.146.

Met as arranged. Average weather. All ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1317A/9, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)
43 British, 14 Allied, and 4 neutral ships. 13 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S.735, 9/9.)
Congratulations on bringing home safely your large convoy H.X.146. NORSE LADY is now in Iceland with engine trouble.
(C. in C.W.A., 1834A/9 to Vice Adm.R.Fitzmaurice.)

SOUTHERN PRINCESS.

Is due to leave Liverpool about 11/9 with Service Personnel on board. She should be routed to Halifax to disembark personnel.
(D.T.D. 1952A/9 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

U.S.Tankers.

Your 1750/8 reporting route of U.S.A.Tankers appears not to have been despatched until 2½ days after ships had sailed and bore no indication of priority. Your 1235/6 reporting departure of these ships did not give route. Most important that full information of all movements of U.S.A. ships should be reported to Admiralty without delay to avoid serious consequences which would arise from collision with British convoys. Routes of ships entering West Indies station should be repeated to C. in C.A. and W.I.
(A.C.N.S.(T)2206A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

9.9.1941
Tuesday.

RAIDER SITUATION.

My 1705A/2.
(1) A Report B 2 states No.36 (Raider A) has recently arrived in Germany. Cancel last para. of my 1825A/26/8.
(2) At 0800/31/8 an unknown ship resembling FELS class of HANSA Line was sighted in 8° N. 47° W. course 135° speed 12 knots. If this is the same ship as that sighted on 27th and 28th August, her speed would have been too great for her to be 16 (Raider C), whose maximum now believed to be 15 knots.
(3) At 2200Z/7 U.S. ROBIN HOOD in 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W. was approached by large vessel low in water burning navigation lights and with illuminated ensign aft. Though two other U.S. ships were in vicinity, vessel might be raider or U-Boat supply ship, in view para.2 above and other reports of suspicious tankers in West Indies Area in July and August.
(4) KONGSDAL six days overdue at Lourenco Marques from Basra.
(5) No news of Galapagos raider which may now be in South Atlantic or Australasian waters.
(6) RIO BRANCO apparently overdue at Los Angeles from Singapore. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1923A/9.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Status".

First Flight left 0653A. Second Flight cencelled. Returning Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 0734A/9 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta.
First pair of Blenheims failed to locate Force H. Owing to lack of endurance standby aircraft (? of) second pair unable to wait for second flight. (ii) Shall attempt to fly off remainder from ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS A.M./12. If light winds prevail FURIOUS may be unable to reach sufficient speed and third attempt will be made A.M./15 using ARK ROYAL only. (iii) Unsuitability of Blenheims for operation, which have repeatedly stressed, subjects ships and Hurricanes to avoidable hazards. (S.O. Force H., 1604A/9 to Admty.)

Derelict.

Derelict sailing craft of ferry type sighted 0400A/7 in 038° 32' N. 023° 26' W. danger to navigation. (F.O.C.N.A., 0901A/9.)

/TRUSTY

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

TRUSTY. (1) Report P.C. and S. of A. and weather when crossing 043° N. (2) Onward route position (P) 037° 40' 011°30'(Q) 036° 35' 009° 00' (R) 350° Spartel 10 for inward escort. (3) Dive by day on 12th. Appropriate T. and S.B.R. arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/9 to TRUSTY.)

LADY SHIRLEY
LADY HOGARTH Auxiliary A/S Trawlers LADY SHIRLEY and LADY HOGARTH arrived a.m. today. LADY SHIRLEY was towed by LADY HOGARTH on account main engine trouble and is being surveyed by captain of port. Have instructed LADY HOGARTH to proceed Gibraltar p.m. today. Report of survey to follow. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1115/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Request LADY SHIRLEY may be sailed to Gibraltar as soon as she has been repaired. Request anticipated date of sailing. (F.O.I.C. Gib., 1658A/9 to Consul, Funchal.)
My 1115/9. As result of survey LADY SHIRLEY will leave Funchal at 2000 G.M.T./11 subject to boiler test proving satisfactory. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1731/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DEUCALION My 1704/30/8. Portions of mooring indicate mine was German type V.A. recently laid. (F.O.C.N.A., 1204A/9 to V.A. Malta.)

Vichy French. Interview with French N.A. (N.A. Madrid, 1205/9 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

CAUDEBEC
LE TRAIT. French ships CAUDEBEC and LE TRAIT arrived Setubal 8/9 from Casablanca with cargo of phosphates. (N.A. Lisbon 1220/9 to Admty.)

B.D.V's. Arrival 9th B.D.V's BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, LORD GAINFORD, bunkering, urgently required routeing instructions Bathurst. (R.O. Horta 1534/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1534/9. Request BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, LORD GAINFORD be sailed, on completion of bunkers, for Bathurst through position (a) 038° 00' N. 028° 30' W. (b) 020° 50' N. 023° 00' W. thence to Bathurst direct, or as ordered by C. in C. South Atlantic. (F.O.C.N.A., 1958A/9.)

/MARON

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

MARON. Cancel my 1410A/8. Proceed Funchal to complete with fresh water to utmost capacity. None available at Gibraltar. Authorities will be informed you will arrive 13th and will require 500 tons. (F.O.C.N.A. 1548A/9 to MARON.)

H.G.72 sabotage (?) Suggest para. 2 of your 1422A/8 (N.T. in W.D.) may give erroneous impression. (ii) Bomb in question emanated from Algeciras and would therefore be placed aboard in Gibraltar. (iii) All Masters especially those from Huelva are warned of the possibilities of sabotage. (iv) I was aware of this incident but deemed it unnecessary to warn the convoy in view of the nature of the bomb and the undesirability of causing extra nervousness. (F.O.C.N.A.1758A/9 to Admty.)

MANCHESTER FIREDRAKE. My 1704A and C.S. Gibraltar's 1134/4. Intend sailing MANCHESTER and FIREDRAKE on 13/9 and FURIOUS on 17/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1844A/9 to Admty.)

French Convoy. Gibraltar 9/9 0829 French survey vessel SENTINELLE French ship BELLE ISLE laden Westbound. 1840 French armed Tug, French ships CONGO, GABRIEL GUISTHAU, one S.S. name unknown 200 tons, all full, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 2113A/9.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Suspicious Vessel reported at 2200Z/7 in position 004° 40' S. 032° 21' W. (C. in C. S.A. 0237N/9 to S.A. Stn.)

TASMANIA PENTRIDGE HILL. Overdue shipping. TASMANIA and PENTRIDGE HILL both due at Capetown on 5th from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1029B/9.)

S.L.86 Departure Bathurst 7/9 EGRET, BANFF, 8/9 FISHGUARD all ocean escort convoy S.L.86. Bathurst's 1551/7 and 1627/8 refer. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1105N/9 to Admty.)

GAZCON (intercepted 7/9.) Unless you require to enter Lagos for fuel leave GAZCON at 2000Z/9 and return to Freetown. After leaving report brief summary of (a) Attitude of officers and crew. (b) Number and category of passengers if any. (c) Cargo. (d) Any other points of interest in the interception. (C. in C. S.A. 1301N/9 to ALBATROSS.)

/REPULSE

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

REPULSE. REPULSE's 0900/8. Request you will signal further details on arrival of REPULSE at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1323A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

B.D.V's. Your 0145N/3/9, all three trawlers are to be sailed for Durban as soon as possible in company, the impracticability of operating defences until the arrival of reliefs being accepted. Duplicate sets of winch drawings are held by A.B.O. Pointe Noire taking passage in GUARDIAN and reporting to C. in C. S.A. for onward passage on arrival at Freetown. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1330A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

CAMERONIA. D. of S.T's 0349A/5. Request information probable number passages available in CAMERONIA from Freetown to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1455N/9 to D. of S.T.)

C.M.17. Durban arrivals CARNARVON CASTLE escorting Capetown portion C.M.17. (N.L.O. Durban 1628Z/9 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown etc.)

Brazilian Destroyers. Information is urgently required as to state of construction and dates of completion of 9 Destroyers now building at Rio de Janeiro. (D.N.I. 1909A/9 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

SUTLEJ. Request you will sail SUTLEJ to join East Indies Station. She may escort W.S.11 out of Freetown as far as you consider necessary but her subsequent passage is to be accelerated as much as possible. Arrangements will be made to forward balance of Mark I M/S Equipment and Oerlikon guns. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1938A/9 to C. in C.S.A.)

Mediterranean.

M/V Syracuse. Air R/C on 7/9 showed that ship torpedoed by Swordfish A/C at Syracuse on 10 - 11/8 now has her stern under water. (D.S. 735, 9/9.)

Enemy Convoy. 6 destroyers 5 merchant ships southbound from Naples 8½ knots. E.T.A. Marittimo 0400/10. (Capt. S.10, 0030B/9 to UNIQUE.)

/Enemy M/V's

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy M/V's — 2 M/V's camouflaged sighted in 037° 40' N. 004° 36' E. and 037° 38' N. 004° 34' E. respectively course 155°, 5 knots at 1820B/8. (V.A. Malta, 0051B/9 to Capt. S.8.)

Cyprus Raid. — Famagusta raided 0227 to 0346, one aircraft high, direction of approach probably N.W. About 5 bombs, all in sea outside reef between 0310 and 0325. One unexploded. No reason to suspect minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 0350C/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Suez Canal mines. — C. in C. Med. 1850C/25/7. During raid of 4 and 5/9 bombs and parachute mines were dropped in Suez Bay and Southern part of Adabiya Bay. No bombs or mines have exploded this week since laying. Suspect mines at k.m. 97 and 158.6 are being swept and searched by divers. Further investigations show mine at k.m. 160.7 is in shoal water out of channel near Asia Bank. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0929C/9 to Admty.)

Haifa Raid. — Air Raid ?Haifa between 0300 and 0400/9. 4 planes (?varied) levels, several flares, and incendiary bombs dropped near (?I.P.C) tank farm. No casualties and practically no damage. Ports open. (N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports, 0930C/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea. — L.O. Black Sea message No.1917C/7 bears out our view that combined operation in the Black Sea is planned and not operation against Turkey. (W.O., No T.O.O./9 to 30 M.M. Moscow.) Panfilov's personal appreciation of Balkan situation is that Germans are concentrating very strong Forces to back up an ultimatum demanding passage of their troops across Turkey. Should Turkey refuse Germans will attempt to force their way through. Panfilov literally ridicules our refusal to believe in the imminence of this threat. Situation on Russian Front. (details) (30 M.M. Moscow 1020/9 to W.O.)

Palermo. — 9/9 Wellingtons bombing Palermo early this morning report no cruisers present. (V.A. Malta, 1021B/9 to Admty. etc.)

/Derna

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Derna, Capuzzo bombed. | Night 7/8 2 Blenheims bombed enemy aircraft on Capuzzo North Landing ground. A third Blenheim attacked Derna aerodrome. |
| Bardia bombed. | Day 8/9. A Maryland despatched to attack a submarine previously reported by R/C off Bardia was unable to locate it and attacked Bardia Harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1106/9.) |
| Suez Raids. | About 26 enemy aircraft attacked Suez night 7/8. Bombs dropped in anchorage and on land. 1 U.X.B. near oil refineries, 2 U.X.B's in canal. No damage reported to shipping or property. 1 Marine killed. Isolated aircraft also bombed and machine-gunned Abu Sueir and Kasfareet. No casualties. Night 8/9 2 raids by enemy aircraft on Abu Sueir, Kasfareet and Ismailia, but damage reported slight. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1108/9) See also 1320/9. |
| Operation "Status". | One Blenheim and 14 Hurricanes arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1220B/9 to S.O. Force H.) |
| Suez Raids. | Ref. C.A.F.O.587. 1st raid (a) night 8/9 slight wind, clear. (b) 5 enemy A/C attacked high level Abu Sueir and low level Kasfait 2314 to 0036, some flares, bright moon. (c) H/E. (d) 12 H.E. Kasfait 4 plus Abu Sueir. (e) No damage, one R.A.F. rating slightly wounded, slight civilian damage. (f) 14 fighters up A/A active. (g) balloons up. 2nd raid (a) As above. (b) low level attack by 12 enemy A/C 0339 - 0525 on Abu Sueir, no flares, bright moon. (c) H/E. (d) 30 H.E. plus D.A's. (e) one machine evacuated hangar and quarters burnt, no casualties reported. (f) and (g) as above. (k) One interception result unknown, one enemy A/C machine gunned ground position three H.E. Moascar, damaged, casualties negative. S.S. GURNA dive bombed Bitter Lakes unsuccessful. Suspect use of new type of combined H.E. and incendiary. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1320C/9 to Admty. etc.) |
| Palermo bombed. | Night 7-8/9. 9 Wellingtons attacked shipping Palermo between 2200 and 0200 hours. Effective smoke screen made observation results difficult. Many hits on sheds and docks and sticks across main jetties and dry dock. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/9.) |

/Tobruk

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tobruk. | Arrival and sailing of JAGUAR, DECOY, KIPLING. (S.T.O. Tobruk, 1830C/9.) |
| Movements. | Summary 216. (C. in C. Med. 1913C/9) See Lion Copy. |
| THRASHER. | Leaves vicinity Alexandria about 1700C/10 routed through 032° 08' 029° 18' and 033° 45' 026° 07'. (Capt. S.1. 2305C/9 to OTUS, OSIRIS.) |
| Alexandria Raid. 8/9 | Alexandria air raid 2320 to 2350/8. One enemy who jettisoned his bombs in sea. (R.A. Alexandria 23290/9 to Admty.) |
| MOREA. | Italian. Tempo of dates 7/8 to 14/8/41 publishes sinking of MOREA, 1968 tons, by S/M on 16/8/40 when returning from Durazzo to Brindisi. (D.S. 735) |
| CATALANI. | 2429 tons, given by Tempo as sunk in Adriatic during war with Greece, no date given. Previously reported sunk (unconfirmed) in Nov.1940. (D.S. 735) |
| ANTONIO LOCATELLI. CAPO VITA FIRENZE PREMUDA SARDEGNA. | Sinking confirmed by Tempo. (D.S. 735) |
| Malta Raid. | Night 8/9, 21 enemy aircraft approached Malta singly. Only 7 crossed coast, bombs and incendiaries, no Military and only slight civilian damage. One Cant Z 1007 BIS shot down in sea by Hurricane after good illumination dawn 9/9. (H.Q. Malta, No T.O.O./9.) |
| Situation report 143. | (1) Destroyers and patrol craft continues search for U-Boats which have been reported to north of Alexandria.<br>(11) Western Desert. Destroyers bombed night 8/9 on passage to and from Tobruk. Slight damage only from near miss to KIMBERLEY and DECOY.<br>(111) On 5/9 PERSEUS sank Tanker MAYA off Dardanelles. (C. in C. Med. 2355/9.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
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MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### East Indies

SHOREHAM
FALMOUTH

Your 1119/7. SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH will arrive Port Sudan about 1/10. They can be sent to Suez instead if this will facilitate the fitting of extra short range weapons vide my 1126/8.
(C. in C. E.I., 0758Z/9 to C. in C. Med.)

Port Defences
Persian Gulf.

Admty. 1755/17/7, 0957/23/7, 1700B/27/7, your 0467/8 and previous signals. In the light of changed circumstances request your requirements for A.A. gun and searchlight defences for all areas of Naval interest in Persian Gulf and Iran may be represented to C. in C. India in order that collated plan for air defence may be prepared in accordance with para 12 of Admty. 1753/17/7. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1032A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

REVENGE

Cancel Admty. 1548A/8. Considered desirable to carry out repairs to Starboard bulges of REVENGE without delay. Request you arrange for REVENGE to be docked at Durban as soon as practicable.
(D.O.D. (F) 1169A/9 to C. in C. E.I.)

### China

RIO BRONCO

Your 1931/7. Ship departed Miri 3/8 due Los Angeles 12/9.
(C/S Singapore, 0201Z/9 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

JADE
French

Arrived 9/9. (Hong Kong, 0219Z/9 to D. of S.T.)

Soviet
Mission

Ref. F.O. telegram No. 1. to C. in C. Far East and No 27 to C. in C. China dated 9/9.
Subject to any views British Ambassador, Tokyo, may express, would you be prepared to receive a Soviet Mission.
-C. in C. China please reply to Admiralty.
(W.O., 2155/9 to C. in C. Far East, C. in C. China.)

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### China-Contd.

COMPIEGNE
LE CONTE DE LISLE
CAP TOURANE

Vichy ships COMPIEGNE, LE CONTE DE LISLE and CAP TOURANE are reported in Consul-General, Saigon's No. 191 to have definitely sailed on 7/9 for Madagascar. 2. If Dutch permit these vessels to pass Sunda Straits interception by forces operating from Seychelles is contemplated. Request you ask Dutch, (a) whether vessels will be intercepted. (b) if not, to report at once whether ships are being escorted by sloop or by submarine, particularly the latter, and to inform us immediately if escort should be seen returning after taking merchant ships through the Straits. 3. Very early report is requested.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2356A/9 to C. in C. China)

### America & West Indies

St. Pierre Miquelon.

Re probable adherence to Free French (MIMOSA, no T.O.O. 24/8 received 9/9, to Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L.) See Lion Copy.

O.N. Escorts

My 1353Z/8. Neither OTTAWA nor SAGUENAY will now be available. Request you retain SAINT CROIX and sail her with escort in para 3. (C.C.N.F. 0236Z/9 to A.C.I.C.)

Corvettes refits.

My 1252Z/8 has been approved by C. in C. Western Approaches. (C.C.N.F. 0257Z/9 to B.A.R.M.)

Suspicious ship. 2/9

Report from Sq.Ldr. Kennett passenger Mc KEESPORT arrived Balboa. At 0530 ship's time 2/9 in 005° S., 092° W. stopped by ship and questioned in good English through amplifiers All Officers and men visible dressed civilian clothes. Ship finally hoisted white ensign and departed Southerly course. (Description)
(S.O.I. Kingston. 0934R/9 to Admty. etc.)
S.O. (1) Kingston 0934R/9. Presume this was PRINCE HENRY. Confirm by L/T on arrival Balboa 11/9. (C. in C. W.W.I., 1802Q/9 to PRINCE HENRY)

/U.S. Tankers..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

U.S.Tankers — Following has been received from Opnav with reference my 2100/5 AE-ADY 14/6/9/41, please correct position GEORGE to read latitude 43-15 longitude 65-22. (Spenavo 1009/9 to Admty. for D.C.)

Service Personnel WORCESTERSHIRE — 6 officers and 172 other ranks R.A.F. took passage to Halifax in WORCESTERSHIRE today. Also 246 Norwegian Mercantile Marine Capt. No further R.A.F. in Iceland awaiting passage to Canada. (A.C.I.C. 1012/9 to Admty.)

PRINCE DAVID NEWCASTLE — Your 1112Q/8. Approved for PRINCE DAVID to relieve NEWCASTLE in position B. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1102A/9)

NIAGARA — Your 2324A/4. NIAGARA can be taken at U.S. Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. Job No S.169 Request date she may be expected. (B.A.R.M. 1112R/9 to Admty.)

CATHAY — Your 1454A/30. Yard allotted to CATHAY, U.S. Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. (B.A.R.M. 1119R/9 to Admty.)

U.S. S/M's — Your 2149R/8 Para 4.2 complete crews, 1 British 1 Polish, will be sent from U.K. for 2 "S" Class. (F.O.S. 1131A/9 to B.A.D.)

U.S.S. BELKNAP — Following received from Opnav. U.S.S. BELKNAP departed Quoiset Point 9/9 for Argentia, arrives 11th, departs for Reykjavik 13th arrives 18th. Lieut. Sylvius Gazzle commanding. No services required. This has been passed to C.N.S. Ottawa for additional action. (ends) (D.O.D. (H) 1148A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

SHEHERAZADE (French) — French N.A. showed me report by Master of French tanker SHEHERAZADE of detention at Bermuda. This accuses us of (? bad) treatment of officers and crew while detained ashore in barracks. Principal items poor scanty food at irregular hours and unhealthy quarters also alleged these designed to induce men to join Free French. When returned on board found most stores stolen and considerable damage to ship's chief auxiliary machinery. This report I could neither keep nor copy. His instructions were to show it to me and ask me to report protest of French Admiralty to you. (N.A. Madrid, 1206/9 to Admty.)

/LIVERPOOL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

LIVERPOOL — Following Armament stores are required to complete LIVERPOOL.
In view of Admty. 0435A/6 request stores be made available for ship to complete on return to Home Port.
(B.A.R.M. 1322R/9 to Admty.)

Guiana — Telegram to Govr. re possible threat to bauxite plants. (1st S.L., 1334A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.) See Lion Copy.

Base Ship St. John's N.F. — My 1416Z/1. Accommodation ship at St. John's N.F. On arrival SS GEORGIAN is to be renamed H.M.C.S. AVALON 11. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1518Z/9)

U.S. Liaison — Following from R.A. Danckwerts. Opnav's 0822/15 to C. in C. Atlantic repeated Spenavo, London. I have seen no request for a conference but message may refer to suggestion I made to Director of Plans, Navy Dept., that personal contact with representative of C. in C. W.A. would be valuable. C. in C. Atlantic has already been told to confer with C.N.S. Ottawa.
(B.A.D. 1601R/9 to Admty.)

Task Force 3. — A.T. 1125A/6. MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON leave Pernambuco 10/9 towards Cape Verde Islands and return Pernambuco.
(D.O.D. (F) 1739A/9 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

"Q" Report 4/9. — LOBOS report receiving distress signal three sets of four Q's only at 1822 G.M.T./4 when in 007° 50' S., 079° 35' W. five miles West Macabi Island. Signal strong estimated within radius 150 miles - no direction obtained - no interference by jamming. Frequency 600m. interrupted continuous wave British sounding.
(N.C.S.O. Panama, 2047/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand

U.S.Convoys — Your 1209Z/30 superseding my 1640M/18. New Zealand requirements. (numbers)
(N.Z.N.B., 0920M/9 to A.C.N.B.)

T.C. 14
AORANGI — D. of S.T.'s 1725A/22 and my 0906Z/30. AORANGI due Panama. (date) Fuel required and accommodation available from Halifax.
(A.C.N.B. 1044Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

LE TRIOMPHANT — Forward earliest possible time forecast of your movements to enable British Admiralty to inform Dutch and British Authorities concerned.
(Adm. Com. F.N.F.L. 1557A/9 to LE TRIOMPHANT)
German radio broadcast has it that 100 deserters from TRIOMPHANT broke ship at San Diego. Please forward telegraphic report from your next port of call.
(Adm.Com. F.N.F.L. 1609A/9 to LE TRIOMPHANT)
Sailed from San Diego 4/9 for Tahiti and Noumea via Honolulu. She carries Capt. de Vaisseau d"ARGENLIEU, Free French High Commissioner for Pacific, whose H.Q. will be Tahiti, and Capt. de Fregate CABANIER, to command Free French Naval Forces in Pacific, whose H.Q. will be Noumea. (Head of M. 2354A/9 Amended 0014A 11 to C. in C. Far East, A.C.N.B., etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Ships Attacked

KIRKLAND (Torpedoed 1/9)

Your 1108A/6. Following is repetition of groups mutilated in my 1115/5. "TARIFA 45 survivors British ship SS KIRKEN (possibly KIRKLAND) torpedoed 1/9."
(N.A. Madrid, 0945/9 to Admty.)

JEDMOOR (S.C. 42.)

SSSS JEDMOOR, torpedo attack, port side. (JEDMOOR, T.O.R. 1226/9)
A ship of S.C. 42 has been attacked. Sail 20th group to meet S.C. 42 at best speed if not boiler cleaning. (C. in C. W.A. 1522A/9 to A.C.I.C.)
British JEDMOOR which sailed in S.C. 42 reports being attacked by U/Boat at 1226Z/9. D/F bearings at 1543Z/9 indicate position of U/Boat between 58° 30' N., to 60° N., and 37° W., to 41° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1740A/9 to Opnav) W.D. Note:- JEDMOOR was undamaged. See 1530/14.
A ship of S.C. 42 has been attacked. Proceed with despatch to join and escort convoy to Iceland if fuel permits.
(C.C.N.F., 1858Z/9 to CHAMBLY, MOOSEJAW, SKEENA, READING)

SESSA (Torpedoed 17/8)

Following received from Opnav (begins) U.S.S. LANSDALE picked up 3 male survivors of S.S. SESSA Panamanian registry in 61° 05' N., 34° 50' W. Ship was torpedoed 17/8 about 300 miles from Reykjavik proceeding to that port from New York. Survivors believe they are the only ones of a crew of 53. Alusna Ottawa pass to C.N.S. Ottawa for additional action T.O.O. 1710/8.(Ends)
(D.O.D. (H) 1227A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

### Submarines Reported

0321Z

Following bearings of Italian U-Boat call sign 67L, obtained at 0321Z/9. Estimated 45° 30' N., 10° 00' W. This is an indication of area only. (D.D.I.C. 0521A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/a.m./9.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

a.m./9. Contact this morning was definitely with enemy submarine. Report follows as soon as possible.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0955/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

0916Z By D/F at 0916Z/9. Italian U-Boat call sign 34D, was probably within 30 miles of 47° 00' N., 8° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1110A/9 to F.O.C.N.A., 1111A/9 to S/M's on Patrol Area A)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1420A/9)

1456 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1456/9 indicate a U-Boat may be in the vicinity of Convoy O.N. 13, or of Convoy S.C. 42. No fix obtained.
(D.D.I.C. 1646A/9 to SKEENA, ALBERNI, VETERAN, SALADIN etc.)
My 1646A/9. Further D/F bearings at 1543 indicate position of U-Boat between 58° 30' N., 60° N., and 37° W. to 41' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1736A/9 )

1809 G.M.T.
1811 G.M.T. (1) By D/F at 1808/9 G.M.T. a U-Boat northward of Cape Ortegal.
(2) By D/F at 1811/9 G.M.T. a U-Boat in 47° - 48° - N., 8°-9° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2017A/9 to S/M's on Patrol Area A.,etc.)

Submarines Attacked

By A/C Am over enemy S/M in 46.50 N., 8.38 W. Have attacked enemy S/M, estimate no hits.
(A/C "D" 1400/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M - on surface. Have attacked with depth charges estimate no hits. (P.C. and S. of enemy)? Course 095° have lost touch, last seen in 46.59 N., 8.34 W.
(A/C "D" 1425/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M 46.53 N., 8.19 W. enemy S/M is on the surface.
(A/C "D" 1545/9 to 15 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 46.55 N., 8.18 W. Enemy S/M was on surface. Have attacked with 500 rounds into conning tower, course 105°. S/M has dived. Present visibility towards the surface is 4 miles. (A/C "D" 1600/9 to 15 Group.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Casualties. NIGERIA arrived at Scapa at 1945 today with AURORA and 2 destroyers.

BURZA arrived at Greenock at 1805A with collision damage.

CANDYTUFT has burst a boiler in mid north Atlantic and is unable to steam. BITTERSWEET who has been ordered to tow her, has on board survivors from a ship in the convoy, which was sunk in collision yesterday.

A/S Trawler LE TIGRE is aground on Iasgair Island, Skye.

Three ships of Convoy W.N.78, BARRDALE, HAMLA and EMERAUDE are aground 5 miles N.W. of the Northern tip of Skye.

Denmark Straits Patrol. It is thought that ADMIRAL SCHEER may be breaking out. LONDON proceeded this afternoon to patrol the western approaches to Denmark Straits. Air patrols have been arranged.

British Air Operations.

A Beaufort on anti-shipping patrol off the coast of Norway today obtained a hit with torpedo on a 5,000 ton ship south of Lister Light.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

**Operation "Status".**

FURIOUS left Gibraltar at 1900 with 3 destroyers and NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE and 4 destroyers left at 2100.

**Palermo bombed.**

9 Wellingtons attacked shipping and the dock area at Palermo between 2120/9 and 0240/10, dropping 33,750 lbs. of bombs. They claim hits on the main quays and dry dock and possible damage to four merchant ships.

**Messina bombed.**

8 Wellingtons attacked the power station and landing stages at Messina in the early hours of this morning. Fires were started near the Commercial oil tanks and in the citadel area.

**Libya and Western Desert.**

Enemy air raids on Tobruk last night were almost continuous. About 100 bombs and possibly some mines were dropped. Damage was caused, but was not serious. The jetty was hit by a bomb today.

Mersa Matruh was bombed last night; slight damage was caused.

**Egypt and Canal Area.**

Moascar and Ismailia aerodromes were attacked twice last night by 8 and 7 aircraft respectively. The latter aerodrome was rendered unserviceable, but the raiders suffered losses.

Enemy aircraft were active last night against shipping in the Gulf of Suez. S.S. HONDURAS (Panamanian) is reported holed and making for Afarana at 0800 today. Two other ships appear to have been unsuccessfully attacked.

**MUREFTE sunk.**

The Palestine Coast Ferry Steamer MUREFTE was sunk by gunfire by an enemy submarine at 2220 today in 33° (or 34°) 12' N., 34° 55' E., whilst on delivery voyage to the Turks.

/Attitude.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Attitude of Bulgaria.

The Soviet Govt. today accused the Bulgarian Govt. of preparing their Black Sea ports as bases for the operations of German and Italian warships. It was reported, early in July, that the Italians had arranged a spurious sale of 6 destroyers to the Bulgarian Govt. It is reported that Bulgaria, which claims to be non-belligerent, though Greece and Yugoslavia declared war on her, will give notice to Turkey of her intention to pass these vessels through the Dardanelles.

East Indies.

ANSON is to revert to her proper name CENTURION.

C. in C. E.I. today reports his dispositions for Force T (MAURITIUS and 2 Catalina Flying Boats) and for HAWKINS, to search for Vichy ships.

China.

N.A. Tokyo reports that there are definite indications that a widespread call up of naval reserves at the earliest possible moment is now in force.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

An aircraft attacked a submarine at 1855 today in 48° 20' N., 7° 5' W., and claims 5 hits with depth charges.

The master of S.S. DENBIGSHIRE reports that at 1450Z/1 in 59° 21' N., 9° 21' W., he fired 3 rounds at a S/M which submerged and disappeared.

Convoy S.C.42 8 or 10 Ships torpedoed.

At 0138Z today CHAMBLY and MOOSEJAW, part of the escort of S.C.42 reported sinking a U-boat in 62° 55' N., 37° 50' W., and taking 30 prisoners.
Two ships of S.C.42 are reported to have been torpedoed at 0333Z today in 61° 32' N., 40° 51' W. These were apparently BARON PENTLAND and TAHCHEE. Another ship, apparently SALLY MAERSK was reported torpedoed at 0513Z though WINTERSWIJK and MUNERIC are also mentioned, and ~~GAM ship~~ EMPIRE ~~GLAN~~ HUDSON at 0800Z, and THISTLEGLEN at 1444Z.
At 2050Z today SKEENA informed an aircraft that 8 ships had been torpedoed, two of them being apparently VESTLAND and STARGARD, though VESTLAND reached port. In addition REGIN, was reported to be missing, but she eventually arrived at Loch Ewe.
SKEENA attacked the U-boat which torpedoed THISTLEGLEN, she believes with success.

South Atlantic.

GORLESTON (sloop) reports that a torpedo passed ahead of her at 2052 N., today in 14° 5' N., 18° 38' W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.9.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

PRESTOL

As there are no oil burning ships working from this base now, is R.F.A. PRESTOL to remain at Stornoway. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0958A/10).

My 1224A/10.

5, 6, and 7 E.G's. Allocations.

1. To bring 5th, 6th, and 7th escort groups to proper strength for new duties, following Corvettes are allocated to Liverpool for these groups:
(A) HONEYSUCKLE, POLYANTHUS, CAMELLIA, CANDYFOOT, CELANDINE on arrival early October.
(B) SWEETBRIAR, COLTSFOOT, EGLANTINE, ACANTHUS, MONTBRETIA on completion of working up.
2. AURICULA has already been allocated to 6th escort group.
3. Previous allocations are cancelled.
(C.in C., W.A. 1226A/10).

Cruiser requirements.

Your 1342A/9 para.(C). AURORA and PENELOPE are the only 6 inch cruisers available and PENELOPE is not fully worked up. Other operational commitments and needs for boiler cleaning make it most undesirable to use either of these. Request EDINBURGH be detailed for operation "Halberd", and that cruisers for journey to U.S.A. referred to in para.2 be postponed until after return of EDINBURGH from "Halberd".
(C.in C., H.F. 1721A/10 to Admty.)

Ramsgate to Dover new channel.

The establishment of an additional daylight channel between Ramsgate and Dover is considered desirable in view of the coastal craft now being based at Ramsgate.
It is not proposed that this channel should be regularly swept and it should only be used as ordered by F.O.C. Dover.
Request Q Z F as follows.
(V.A. Dover 1736A/10 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Conference. Following message has been received from Opnav. Since C.N.O. desires to meet the wishes of the British and they requested a conference, the C.N.O. will inform them that this conference will be held at your convenience upon the arrival of a staff officer from C.in C., W.A.
(Spenavo 1250/10 to Admty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Fuel at Archangel. Have been informed that stocks of oil fuel at Archangel have been greatly increased and there should be no difficulty in future of providing fuel for our destroyers and if necessary cruisers.
(Ad. Miles 1103C/10 to Admty.)

"Pardoe" and "Benedict" Forces. Admty. 1401A/10, B.S.N.O. Murmansk 2214C/10.
See Operations Volume.

Movements.

BERWICK. Proceed passing Hoxa boom at 0600/12 to Rosyth.
(C.in C., H.F. 1309A/10 to BERWICK.)

SEALION. Intend to sail SEALION at 1700/12. Route to patrol in Bay of Biscay North.
(Capt. S.5. 1332A/10.)

DUKE OF YORK. Arrivals DUKE OF YORK and VIVACIOUS.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1600/10.)

P.34. Intend to sail P.34 from 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 2200A/17 for Gibraltar. Route.
N.O.I.C. Barrow is requested to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE. LA CAPRICIEUSE to return to Holy Loch on arrival off Bishop Rock.
(Capt. S.3. 1633A/10.)

/ ARGUS .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Red Sea Forces. — Although FALMOUTH and SHOREHAM (Persian Gulf Division) are not adequately armed for A/A defence, C. in C. East Indies intends sending them to Aden as soon as possible. He requests that SUTLEJ and JUMNA may reinforce Red Sea Force.

Trincomalee. — A reply was given today to C. in C. E.I. in regard to the facilities to be provided for certain ships at Trincomalee.

Vichy Shipping. — EMERALD is to leave Seychelles tomorrow to patrol between Cape Amber and Saya de Malha Bank for the interception of Vichy French shipping.

China.

Singapore. — Details of mines, laid in the Western portion of Singapore Straits were announced today by R.A. Malaya.

U-Boat Campaign.

Italian U/B sunk. — Destroyer CROOME, of 6th Escort Group, attacked and sunk an Italian U/B this morning in 40.30 N., 21.15 W. and picked up some survivors. Her bow was damaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd)

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|---|---|
| ARGUS.<br>SHROPSHIRE. | In absence of other developments, ARGUS and SHROPSHIRE are only to embark sufficient fuel at Seidis Fiord to ensure arriving at Scapa with 30% remaining.<br>SHROPSHIRE provide Oiler WAR SUDRA with any necessary supplies and investigate living and messing conditions for report on return to Scapa. (C.in C., H.F. 1843A/10.) |
| Force A.<br>(NIGERIA) | Scapa arrival 1945. NIGERIA, AURORA, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 2135/10.) |

Operations.

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|---|---|
| Patrol off Portland. | Sailing M.L's 245, 246, 247, 268 at 0130 to patrol on latitude 50° 28'N from 2° 15'W to 1° 55'W returning to Portland at dawn. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0115A/10.) |
| LONDON.<br>Patrol off Denmark Strait. | My 1203A/10. Proceed to Patrol Western Approaches to Denmark Strait prepared to act on report from Patrol.<br>(ii) Attention is called to Admiralty's 1420/9. Keep North of 065° North unless in contact with enemy. (C.in C., H.F. 1308A/10 to LONDON.)<br>Cancel my 1302Z/10. Am acting in accordance with C.in C., H.F. 1308A/10. Percentage of fuel remaining 70%. (LONDON 1624Z/10 to A.C.I.C.) |
| PRINCE OF WALES. | My 1307A/10. Remain in practice area and carry out practices pending further information. (C.in C., H.F. 1430A/10 to F.O.2., H.F.)<br>Cancel my 1307A/10 and my 1430A/10. Return to harbour. (C.in C., H.F. 2212A/10 to V.A.2.) |
| Force "S". | Reported returning to Westward at 2300. (A.C.O.S. 2358A/10 to V.A.2.) |
| Western Channel. | 3 A/S Trawlers on patrol between Portsmouth and Beachy Head. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437A/10.) |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cable Operation. | MILFORD reports that the operation of cutting cable by LADY DENISON PENDER ordered last month has been completed. |
| Bathurst. | Facilities at Bathurst as a terminal port for ocean escorts are reported as inadequate by C. in C. Western Approaches. |
| Troop Convoy. | C.M.18 escorted by AUSTRALIA, left Durban today for Suez. |
| GAZCON | Vichy French GAZCON, intercepted yesterday by ALBATROSS, is being taken to Lagos under armed guard, and is due to arrive about 0900/10 G.M.T. |

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Egypt and Suez Canal. | Suez was twice bombed last night by about 24 aircraft. No naval damage was caused but there was 1 R.M. casualty in the first raid. |
| Dardanelles. | S/M TORBAY is to establish a patrol until further instructions off the Dardanelles. |
| Black Sea. | There is further intelligence today of a possible German seaborne expedition against Russia, and apprehensions of possible action against Turkey. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.41. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

NIGERIA Escorts.

My 1058A/9. Request also air R/C 50 miles to Eastward of NIGERIA until South of 061° N.
(C.in C., H.F. 0009A/10 to C.in C. Rosyth.)
Your 0009/10. R/C will be carried out if and when weather improves.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0238/10 to C.in C., H.F.)
My 2352/9th postponed owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0254/10 to S.O. Force A.)
My 2352/9 and my 0254/10. Expect Blenheim fighter about 0700/10. A/S escort still postponed. (C.in C. Rosyth 0622/10.)
Expect A/S Escort Hudson from 1015.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0934/10 to S.O. Force A.)

Patrols.

Request air patrols as follows
(A) "Polar" during daylight today.
(B) "Fox" at last light and first light tomorrow.
2. Object to detect German Armoured Ship ADMIRAL SCHEER who may be breaking out.
(C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10 to Admty.)
"Hornli" now flying. (C.in C. Rosyth 1232/10.)
"Bert" and "Stab" in operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1556/10.)
Your 1203A/10. These will be flown.
(A.C.I.C. 1810/10 to C.in C., H.F.)
C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10. (i) 1 Northrop float plane patrol "Polar" until 2100/10. (ii) 2 Hudson patrol "Fox" until last light 2245/10. (iii) 2 Hudson patrol "Fox" from first light 11th. (A.C.I.C. 1850/10).
-My 1850/10. Paras. 1 and 2 returned owing to poor visibility.
(A.C.I.C. 2206/10.)
Comply with C.in C., H.F. 1203A/10.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1635A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

828 Squadron F.A.A.

1. 828 Squadron with certain additions to complement and a temporary I.E. of 14 aircraft is required for service abroad. Orders.
(5th S.L. 1304A/10.)

Recognition Equipment to U.S.A. Aircraft.

Request that reply may be given to Admty. 1747A/4/9 regarding supply of recognition equipment to U.S. aircraft.
(D.S.D. 1726A/10 to G.O.C. Iceland.)

/ 817, 827 .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

Thurso-Hull. Consideration is being given to running a shuttle service of 2 extra guns and military gunners per ship between Thurso and Hull.

Foreign Stations.

Leave. In order that ships' Companies may not spend an undue time abroad without leave, it is intended to initiate a system of reliefs, provided the international situation does not further deteriorate.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Convoy. DUNEDIN continues to search for the suspicious convoy (possibly French) reported by PHILANTE in 32.52 N., 22.32 W. at 2100Z/4.
DUNEDIN at noon had nothing to report southward of Canary Islands or in vicinity of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, and Las Palmas.
Sunderlands and a Hudson A/C from Bathurst are to co-operate tomorrow.

South Atlantic.

REPULSE REPULSE, escorting W.S.11, reports oil from oiler RAPIDOL inadequate, and as she cannot exceed 15 knots and reach Freetown may have to go to Bathurst. C. in C. S.A. has informed her it is undesirable to fuel there, but oiler LISS can R/V off the harbour if necessary.
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be sent to join the convoy on 11/9 in case REPULSE has to leave.

/Cable.....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd)

817, 827, and 832 Sqdns. F.A.A.

Admiralty 1018A/19 August and 1304A/10/9. Understand that No.817 Squad.(F.A.A.) will now remain embarked in place of No.828. No. 827 Squad. F.A.A. will be available for embarkation from 15/9. No. 832 Squad. F.A.A. should be disembarked to R.N.A.S. Hatston. Request arrangements may be made accordingly. (V.A.N.A.S. 2111A/10 to C.in C., H.F.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

One S A Mine detonated at 1227/8 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1155/10.)

Operation "Tincture" (Nymph Bank search).

My 1654A/1. Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m. 13th employing one R.N.N. trawler on centre line only. She is not to display any minesweeping distinguishing marks. (A.C.N.S(H) 1207A/10 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Plymouth.

Red mine detonated by M M S at 0824/10. Details. (C.in C. Plymouth 1819/10.)

Off Shetlands.

Moored mine within 2 miles from 060° 30'N 2° 26'E. (C.14 2115B/10 to F.O.S.)

East Coast S.A. Sweep. HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL.

Leave Sheerness at 1100 tomorrow and proceed by Swept Channels in force to R/V off 22 A Buoy at 0600A/12.
Speed on passage 20 knots and S.A. gear to be operated by leading destroyer whilst on passage. HOLDERNESS is to take station 6 cables ahead and operate S.A. gear changing stations as requisite to rest S.A. gear.
C.in C. Rosyth is requested to issue further instructions whilst on passage and to arrange return immediately on completion of operation. Fighter protection arranged.
(C.in C. Nore 2232A/10 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL.)

SCOTT.

Sailed H.M.S. SCOTT for Denmark Straits 2200Z/10. (A.C.I.C. 2346/10 to R.A.M.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The British MARCREST, bombed yesterday off Cromer, sank in tow at 0630A today about ¾ mile N.E. of the South Scroby Buoy.

Yarmouth was bombed last night, but without naval damage or casualty.

At 2215 yesterday a single A/C dropped 3 bombs on Dover, killing 3 civilians; and shortly afterwards 3 salvoes of H.E. bombs were dropped on and round the harbour at Ramsgate, killing 7 civilians and wounding 15 more.

Mining.

ELECTRA and ACTIVE sailed today from Archangel to cover our minesweeping operations at the mouth of the White Sea, and a Russian Minelayer left Murmansk yesterday for operations off Varda.

The M.D. Ship CORFIELD was sunk by a near Mine explosion at 1934A today about 2 miles South of the Humber Light Vessel, it is believed without casualties.

As from next Wednesday, Belfast from the Pile Light will be closed daily from 2100 till 0600.

3 magnetic mines were detonated by sweepers today in the Thames Estuary and 2 off the Humber.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N. Convoys. Changes in the cycle of O.N. Convoys (U.K. to North America and West Indies) were ordered by Admty. today.

/Thurso.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. Photographic R/C of Brest at 1830A/9 shows both battlecruisers and PRINZ EUGEN present in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 0001A/10.)

E-Boats. Indication of "E" Boats.
(C.in C. Nore 0047A/10.)
E-Boat activity Cromer area.
(C.in C. Nore 2115A/10.)

SCHEER. Report graded B2 states warship, presumably SCHEER, left Oslo p.m. 7th.
W.T.I. overnight suggests the possibility of the movement of an important unit northwards to Bergen today. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1202A/10.)
EMDEN in Oslo Fjord Sept. 5th. Graded B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1247/10.)

Suspicious Ship. At 1614 GMT/10. Br.EGTON reported a suspicious ship, possibly raider, in 44°N. 38°05'W. (D.D.I.C. 1855A/10 to A.L.U.S.N.A.)

German Main Units. My 1521A/3. Latest known positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1932A/10.) See Lion Copy.

Casualties and Defects.

LIGHTNING, STRATHGELD. (Collision on 9/9). Collision with trawler STRATHGELD at 2230 in 058° 12'N 002° 21'W. Trawler flooded to fore watertight bulkhead. Am escorting her to Wick.
LIGHTNING has sustained following damage.
(LIGHTNING 0110/10.)

CANDYTUFT, explosion, damaged. M/V sunk, collision. CANDYTUFT starboard boiler burst, unable to steam, many injured. BITTERSWEET standing by ordered to tow St. Johns' N.F. estimated position 0030Z/10, 051° (? 20') N 039° 08'W.
BITTERSWEET has 18 survivors from ship number (? 23) sunk in collision in fog yesterday with ship number 25, latter damaged but rejoined convoy with 25 survivors. RICHMOND and FENNEL (? lost) home convoy in fog 0100Z/9 have searched for CANDYTUFT without (corrupt group). My estimated position 0130Z/10 051° 20'N 039° 07'W proceeding to rejoin convoy in estimated position at 0100Z/10 051° 16'N 038° 42'W. Course of convoy at 2300Z was 016°, 9 knots. Am steering 87° 15 knots until 0830Z and then 059° for position 055° 30'N 025° 00'W. FENNEL endeavouring to rejoin convoy. Weather report.
(RICHMOND 0205Z/10 to Admty., C.in C. W.A. etc.)

/ RICHMOND's .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

| | |
|---|---|
| CANDYTUFT, explosion, damaged. M/V sunk collision. (Contd) | RICHMOND's 0205Z. BITTERSWEET with CANDYTUFT in tow, estimated position at 1400Z 051° 18' (? North) 039° 13'W steering 246° at 6 knots. CANDYTUFT casualties 11 dead, 14 seriously burnt, 8 burnt but able to walk. After boilers blown. Boiler rooms have 12 feet oil fuel in them. Remaining damage cannot be estimated. Weather. (BITTERSWEET 1612/7.) |
| LE TIGER (Grounded 9/9). | Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0855A/10.) |
| ML.209. | Arrived M.L's 209 and 289. 209 has engine defects. Anticipate sailing 0600A/11. (N.O.I.C. Oban 0935A/10.) |
| MANOR (A/S Trawler). | A/S.T. MANOR when escorting W.P.31 yesterday dropped two patterns of depth charges on target considered to be non-sub and sustained following damage. Ship was towed back to Dartmouth by M/S T. SCARRON and French Tug ISERE. 2. Repairs should be complete by noon 12th. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0951/10.) |
| BARDALE. (Grounded 9/9). | Your 0915A/10. If BARDALE has been refloated Tug SPARKLER is to escort her to Staffin Bay. Tug HECTOR has proceeded from Loch Alsh with Admiralty Salvage representative. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115A/10 to MARAUDER.) BARDALE refloated. Tugs SPARKLER and HECTOR towing her to anchorage off Fladda Chauin. (MARAUDER 2330A/10.) |
| AUK. | My 0019A. Arrived Rothesay in tow of RENE LE BESNERAIS. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1153A/10.) |
| LANCASTER. | My 1030A/8. Completion of LANCASTER delayed, due to defectivr air compressor. Anticipate ship ready to sail 17/9. (F.O. Humber 1540A/10.) |
| BURZA. (Collision 8/9) | Arrived BURZA with collision damage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1805A/10.) |

/ NIGERIA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. (Contd)

NIGERIA. (Damaged 7/9)

C.in C., H.F. 1709/10. Regret no S A fitted destroyer available from Rosyth Escort Force to escort NIGERIA from 22A Buoy 0600/12th to Tyne. Request C.in C. Nore will provide S A escort in order to comply with Admiralty 1105B/24th July. (C.in C. Rosyth 1925/10.) NIGERIA arrived Scapa 1945. (A.C.O.S. 2133/10.)

EMERAUDE.

My 1409. Aground Fladda Chuain. Reports all ballast tanks badly strained and holed. Ship's beam on to shore. (MARAUDER 1930A/10.)

CHRISTINE ROSE. Grounded.

(Steam Drifter). N.O.I.C. Campbeltown reports her ashore on bow of Knap Rock 55° 53'N 50° 42'W. Feared total loss.
10 survivors including Professor and Assistant being taken to Lochgilphead by Lloyds Agent.
3 dead being sent to Oban by Civil Authorities.
2 missing. Master, Engineer, 2 Deckhands and 1 Stoker included in dead and missing.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1949A/10.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.12.

My 0256/3. EMPRESS OF ASIA, BANFORA, and HIGHLAND PRINCESS will not now be included in W.S.12. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL will be included, code number B.18, to embark in Clyde.
(D.of S.T. 0732A/10 to P.S.T.O. W.of Scotland.)

D.S.12.

ORMONDE will probably ready for D.S.12 leaving Clyde 18/9. On outward voyage not more than 1000 all ranks will be embarked but on homeward voyage she will be used to capacity.
(D.S.T. 0733A/10 to P.S.T.O. W.of Scotland.)
ORMONDE will form Convoy D.S.12 leaving Clyde 18/9. (D.O.D(H) 2315A/10 to C.in C., W.A.)

East Coast.

Forecast of northbound sailings from Southend. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1140/10.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Tankers.

Your 2206A/9. Delay is regretted. It was due to route being ordered by Director of Operations Washington as ships were escorted by U.S. Naval Force. Arrangements have been made for me to be kept informed in future.
(A.C.I.C. 1216/10 to Admty.)

/ East Coast .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

East Coast Cycle. Cancel my 1135/26/5. Following cycle for east coast convoys will operate as from 14/9:-
Southbound. Sunday F.S. (Medium) Monday Blank Day, Tuesday F.S. (Slow), Wednesday F.S. (Fast), Thursday F.S. (Medium), Friday F.S. (Slow), Saturday F.S. (Fast).
North Bound. Promulgated from time to time as in my 1140/10/9. Sailing times according to current timetable. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1220/10 to Admty).

O.N. Escorts. To turn over their convoys to Newfoundland escort in about 27° W. (C. in C. W.A., to Capts. (D), 1224A/10). See Lion Copy.
Orders for Escort Groups from O.N.18. (C. in C. W.A 2224A/10 to Capts. (D)) See Lion Copy.

S.L.86. Proceed at best speed forthwith. Report your speed on crossing 40° 00' N.
(C. in C. W.A. 1237A/10 to Escorts of S.L.86).

W.S.11 X. Admty 1011A/6. CAIRO is to escort Bristol Channel portion and subsequently act as anti-aircraft escort to Convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1316A/10 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
Information in my 1202/10 (reporting SCHEER leaving Oslo) is not considered sufficient to justify interfering with arrangements for W.S.11 X. (V.C.N.S., 1359A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

O.N.14 At 1600Z/10 alter course to avoid probable U-boat in 059° 25' N., 010° 15' W., and steer for 058° 00' N., 011° 00' W., onward route follows.
(C. in C. W.A., 1440A/10 to Escort O.N.14).

Calls at Belfast. Several cases have occurred of ships in convoy bound for Bristol Channel ports proceeding direct to their destinations instead of entering Belfast Lough. Definite instructions that these ships are to call at Belfast for onward escort should be included in their sailing orders.
(D.T.D. 1651A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

W.S.11 X. A.M.1011A/6. Para 2: for 9 read 15 and add from Clyde:- S.S. STRATHEDEN, H.M. Ships QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ULSTER MONARCH; from Mersey:- S.S. LEINSTER.
(2) STRATHEDEN will be detached with two of the A/S Escorts and proceed to Halifax with air training personnel. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2317A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious M/V. — One unidentified Merchant ship showing lights P.C. and S. 170° Cape St. Vincent 28, 155° 18. (PROTEUS, 0355A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships. — French CAPITAINE PRIEUR full and tug L'OBSTINE escorted by minelayer No. A.62 bound N., position 332 S.T.V.50. (SCOTTISH, 0740A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation "Status." — My 1604/9. No positive evidence that operations observed by enemy but in vicinity of Algiers French Aircraft particualrly inquisitive. Fulmar closed a very persistent French Boston. Latter waggled his wing and moved off but returned later. This behaviour of French A/C unusual and if persisted in may provoke incident.
(ii) Reception Gibraltar broadcast failed entirely between 2100/8 and 0800/9 due to atmospherics and fade. Weather report and departure of Blenheims not received in consequence. (S.O. Force H., 0817A /10 to Admty).
Departure for Operation "Status" 1900:- FURIOUS, LEGION, FORESIGHT, FORESTER; 2100 NELSON, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, ZULU, GURKHA, LANCE, LIVELY. (F.O.C.N.A., 2150A/10 to Admty etc).
Your 1604/9. Long range Hudsons have only 30 land miles more endurance than Blenheims fitted as are those made available for this operation.
2. Figures of consumption received by Air Ministry from Malta and 200 Group indicate that the Blenheim that arrived at Malta had about two hours' e p/trol remaining and that the Blenheims which returned to Gibraltar had even better consumption.
3. Request report in due course whether conditions allowed you to try homing the Blenheims to carrier in accordance with A.M.1926B/27/5. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2236A/10 to F.O. Force H) Reply: 0947/15.

Suspicious A/C. — Unidentified large flying boat bound North 326 S T V 45. (SCOTTISH, 0830A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H. — Arrival ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, LANCE, LIVELY, FORESTER, GURKHA. (F.O.C.N.A., 0920A/10) W.D.
Note:- From Operation Status(?).

/CROOME.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

CROOME. E.T.A. 1445. Have following Italian prisoners, 6 Officers, 10 Chief and Petty Officers. 18 other ratings. Request military escort on arrival. (CROOME, 1015A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.D. Note. Prisoners from Italian U/B sunk by CROOME 8/9.

B.D.V.'s Request all Boom Defence Vessels calling Horta for Bunkering in next few days may be instructed to proceed in accordance with my 1958A/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/10 to R.O. Horta) See also 2114/10.

CROOME. Damage. Intend docking 13th for repair. Estimated 2 or 3 weeks. Ref. my 1716/4 docking of DURHAM will be postponed until CROOME is completed. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1848A/10).

O.21. Following is repetition of my 1550A/8 (N.T. in W.D). Return Gibraltar forthwith South of Sardinia North of Balearic Is., thence within 25 miles of Spanish coast. Report P.C. and S. when North of Minorca. (ends). Force H., and FURIOUS operating in Western Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A., 1910A/10 to O.21).
Position 2000A/10 039° 40' N., 001° 47' E.
E.T.A. 0807A/12. 22 prisoners ex ISARCO on board since 5/9. (O.21 2000A/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

B.D.V.Group. Following from C. O. B.D.V. BARRYMORE.
BARRYMORE, PHYLLISIA, PANORAMA, LORD GAINFORD completed with fuel and stores Fayal and sailed Bathurst expected time of arrival 22/8/41 (?)
B.D.V.CONSBRO lost convoy 0000/6 last seen steaming ahead full speed 044° 051° North 025° 02' W.
Weather rough, visibility poor at times. CONSBRO had not arrived Fayal up to time of sailing of above group for Bathurst 10/9.
(R.O. Horta, 2114/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

JONQUIL, SPIREA. Your 1250/10. JONQUIL and SPIREA failed to locate BRITISH FREEDOM and were diverted to Noreg. My 2254/8 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 2351A/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bathurst. | Reply to C. in C. W.A. 1337/8 re inadequate facilities for ocean escorts. (C. in C. S.A., 0421N/10) See Lion Copy. |
| Transports, W.3.10 B. | Position 9/9. (S.S.T.O. Durban, 0849/10, to D. of S.T.) |
| TASMANIA, PENTRIDGE HILL. | Overdue shipping, cancel my 1029/9, TASMANIA and PENTRIDGE HILL arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0946B/10 to Admty etc). |
| PRETORIA CASTLE. | Proceed Capetown with all despatch report E.T.A. You are required to escort CAMERONIA towards Freetown. You will have to leave immediately after fuelling but hope will have opportunity returning later. (C. in C. S.A., 1017N/10 to PRETORIA CASTLE). |
| DUNEDIN search for suspicious convoy. | Nothing seen of Convoy but when in position 235° Cape Verde 24 miles at 0900Z/10 observed smoke from one possibly more ships close under land to southward Dakar and 2 aircraft patrolling in vicinity. Simultaneously French type of submarine on surface closed DUNEDIN from similar bearing diving when 4 miles distant. At 0938Z sighted French Cruiser MONTCALM class flying flag of S.O. 4th Squadron, French light forces, who informed me French submarines were present. Another large unidentified warship closer in shore and many (?general reconnaissance aircraft) also sighted. E.T.A. Bathurst 1530 B.S.T. Weather report. (DUNEDIN, 1047Z/10 to Admty etc). Your 1830N/10 to DUNEDIN only (N.T. in W.R.) Add to my 1047Z/10, DUNEDIN was steering southerly courses throughout. (DUNEDIN, 2043N/10 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| KONGSDAL. | Overdue shipping, Cancel my 1033/8 KONGSDAL arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1144B/10). |
| CALENDULA. | My 2037N/6. Return to Freetown with ECHODALE. (C. in C. S.A., 1249N/10 to CALENDULA). |

/C.M.17.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

C.M.17 EASTERN PRINCE. My 1751/8 and D. of S.T.'s 1816/9 (N.T. in W.D.) As EASTERN PRINCE cannot be ready to sail before 14/9 owing to defects and as Dept. of Defence considers it important that departure of C.M.17 less THYSVILLE and NIEUW HOLLAND should not be further delayed, it is intended to adhere to date of departure 11/9 given in my 2135/9. Speed of this convoy now that these ships have dropped out will probably be 12 knots, slowest ship being INDIAN PRINCE of 13 knots. (2) Intended to sail EASTERN PRINCE from Durban about 15/9 to R/V with W.S. 10 X. as convenient assuming that no further delays take place. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1402B/10 to C. in C. E.I.) See 1743/16.

Force F. Owing to adverse weather and other delay force F., completed fuelling 1600/10 in 007° 25' N., 027° 20' W., and is proceeding in accordance with your 1037N/6 speed 14 knots, E.T.A. St. Helena noon/17. CALENDULA and ECHODALE have been ordered to Freetown in accordance with your 1249N/10. Weather report. (S.O. Force F., 1500N/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

SOBO, PINZON. Have you any news of SOBO from Takoradi due 1/9 also of PINZON from Freetown due 3/9. (D.T.D., 1558A/10 to N.C.S.O. Bathurst).

Brazilian Destroyers. Your 1909/9 3 destroyers have been launched but owing to difficulties in supplies of materials from U.S., Naval Chief of Staff informs me that none of them will be ready for trials for another year. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1842Z/10 to D.N.I.)

BIRMINGHAM. Owing to delay in arrival of new Minister, am postponing visit to Montevideo, I would like to visit Buenos Aires in BIRMINGHAM on Friday 19th but if week end is unsuitable will enter Monday 22nd. (R.A.S.A.D., 1911Z/10 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MAYA. (Italian.) — C.4. report received that MAYA was torpedoed and sunk outside Dardanelles on morning of 4/9 on passage from Italy to Istanbul in company with BALCIC. Second report gives date 5/9. No confirmation yet from any S/M report. (D.S.735, 10/9.)

Enemy M/V's. — 2 Enemy ships expected to arrive 032° 017' 020° 04' from Straits of Messina 1500C/11 and one from Greece A.M./12. My 0947C/8, (?0937/8.) ship delayed for (?supplies.) (Capt. S.1, 1050C/10, to THUNDERBOLT.)

Corinth Canal bombed. — 23 Wellingtons dropped nearly 22 tons of bombs on Corinth Canal many bombs falling in canal and on both banks near point east of bridge previously attacked on nights 8/9 and 13/14/8. 5 Wellingtons also dropped 9 boxes of food supplies for propaganda purposes. 1 Wellington unable to reach Greece bombed Heraklion Aerodrome.

Haifa Raid. — Palestine Night 8/9. 4 Unidentified aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on Haifa, no damage or casualties.

Cyprus Raid. — Cyprus Night 8/9. About 7 unidentified aircraft dropped bombs in sea off Kyrenia and Famagusta, no damage or casualties. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1116/10.)

Suez Canal Raids. — My A.876, 9/9. Details of damage in enemy raid on Suez Canal Zone night 8/9. Aerodrome Abu Sueir rendered unserviceable by bomb craters. A single enemy aircraft also dropped bombs in sea off Alexandria. No damage or casualties. Night 9/10. Ismailia attacked twice by 8 and 7 unidentified enemy aircraft respectively. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E.1123/10.) Re C.A.F.O. 587 1st raid (a) Night 9th,10th September. (b) High leval and dive bombing attack on Moascar and Ismailia Aerodrome by 8 enemy aircraft (d) About 50 H.E. and 100 incendiaries (e) slight R.A.F. damage fires in 54th General Hospital and R.E. Yard quickly controlled no casualties 16 fighters up no interceptions light A/A in action. 2nd raid (a) As above (b) Low Level attack by about 7 enemy aircraft on Ismailia Aerodrome. (d)About 20 H.E.500 and 1,000 (c) slight damage no casualties (f) 16 Fighters up numerous interceptions 2 enemy A/C destroyed 6 prisoners taken plus 2 Dead one enemy A/C possibly destroyed. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1401C/10.)

/Palermo.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Palermo bombed M/V's damaged. | Night 8-9/9. 9 Wellingtons 38 Squadron attacked shipping and dock area Palermo between 2120 and 0240 hours. Many hits 3 main quays and drydock. Three large M/V's possible damage. Probable hit small M/V. (H.Q.Malta, 1309/10.) |
| Aircraft Carriers. | Your 0930C/20. Allocation of aircraft carriers is under consideration and will be discussed with Adm. Boyd who will bring back Admty., views. (D.O.D.(F), 1549A/10 to C. in C. Med.) |
| Night Fighters. | A fighter flight with I.E. of 6 Fulmars has been formed at Grebe for night fighter operations and developments. (R.A.A., Med., 1606C/10 to Admty.) |
| Messina bombed. | Night 9/10. 8 Wellingtons attacked power station, ferry slips and landing stages of ferry service Messina between 1918 and 2220 hours. Targets well straddled and many hits. (H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1700/10.) |
| ROYAL EMBLEM. | Have you any news? (D.T.D. 2026A/10 to S.B.N.O.Suez.) |
| Operation "Halberd" | General Plan. (S.O.Force H. 2120A/10.) See Operations Volume. |
| Beirut W/T Station. | Security services consider most undesirable Beirut wireless station be left in unfettered control of Radio Orient. 3. We should like you to take over station. Should complete control be impossible consider it essential that operators be British and strong British representation be ensured on supervision. (W.O.2120/10 to C.in C.M.E.) |
| Situation report 144. | Enemy aircraft active night 9/10 against shipping in Gulf of Suez. S.S.HONDURAS reported holed and making for Afarana at 0800/10. Two other ships attacked apparently no damage. 2. Aircraft report successful attack on Corinth Canal night 8/9 by 26 Wellingtons. (C. in C. Med., 2316C/10 to Admty.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Jibuti. Re blockade. (C. in C.M.E. 1136/10.)
See Lion Copy.

Norwegian Whalecatchers. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1945/4 and A.M. 1233/4. As soon as permission is obtained request you sail Norwegian Whalecatchers for Mombasa call at Beira for coal and routed inshore direct. (C. in C.E.I., 1250Z/10, to N.L.O. Durban.)

REVENGE. C. in C.E.I., 1310Z/10. See Operations Volume.

Vichy Shipping. Admty., 2356/9. Disposition of forces to search. (C. in C.E.I., 1340Z/10.)
See Lion Copy.

ANSON. renamed. Inform C.O. H.M.S.ANSON that ship is now to revert to her proper name H.M.S.CENTURION. (V.C.N.S. 1648A/10, to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

China.

MOSEL. (German.) Reported that a German ship resembling ODER (sunk in Red Sea in March 1941) was anchored off Cape St. Jaques, Saigon, and sailed on 18/8. Ship was under name AKAGI MARU, and was almost certainly German MOSEL, which sailed from Bangkok on 8/8. (D.S.735, 10/9.)

ANHUI. Your 20, (Cannot be identified in W.R.)ANHUI will be sailed to arrive Yokohama at daylight 24/9. Her call sign is G.K.Q.S. and she will confirm her time of arrival by W/T when passing Su Tims Saki.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0615Z/10 to N.A.Tokyo.)

Vichy Shipping. Your 2356/9. Dutch will keep me informed of all particulars of escorts. Their prize manual does not permit interception of neutral convoys.
(C. in C. China, 0703Z/10 to Admty.)

/Harbour.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. Contd.

Harbour Defence Craft.

Your 1542/1. Some craft of 10-knot type can be taken up locally and presumably must suffice until new construction M.L's are in commission in sufficient numbers to meet this commitment. Building has been delayed by non-delivery of parts and only proportion of the 16 Fairmiles and 13 Launches under construction will be completed by Jan., 1942, by which date 48 craft were allotted to this station in A.L. M/PD. 09374/40 of 22/1/1941. This number falls far short of the total final requirement for China Station vide A.L.M 07805/40 of 15/5/1940.
(C. in C. China, 0705Z/10, to Admty.)

Use of Danish Lighters, Bangkok.

Br. Minister Bangkok has transmitted suggestion in view of shortage of shipping Thair Navigation Co., should be permitted to supplement capacity of ships trading with Singapore by use of lighters owned by Danish East Asia Co., on assurance that these would not be seized as enemy property. Minister recommends assurance be given and states similar approach would be made to N.E.I., authorities. In view of instructions in Admty., 1931 of ?(26/3) (2/5.) 1940 that all Danish vessels are to be treated as enemy I am not prepared to agree to this without further authority.
(C. in C. China, 0853Z/10, to Admty.)

LE COMTE DE LISLE.

Departure 9/9. Haiphong.
(Saigon 1020Z/10.)

Japanese preparations.

Definite indications are that widespread call up of naval (? reserves) at earliest possible moment is now in force, ratings reporting at naval bases 10/9. Known cases include men of ages 45 and 25. Individual mobilization orders were secret. (B.N.A.Tokyo 1556/10.)

Far East Liaison.

Report on liaison arrangements, etc.
(C. in C., Far East, 2015/10 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Reply to Admty., 2225A/8 re report of desertions at San Diego. (N.A.Washington, ?110R/10 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

N.F. Destroyer Escorts. Your 1807Z/9. How many destroyers of Newfoundland force do you anticipate will normally be available T.C and C.T convoy between Halifax and longitude of Iceland.
(C. in C.W.A., 1424A/10, to C.C.N.F.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Your 1712A/8. Expect sail 16/9 for Freetown direct, arriving (date).
(C.O.A.C., 1437Z/10, to D. of S.T.)

"Q" Report 4/9. Following received from Panama, (repeats 2047/9.) Was any American warship in this area? DESPATCH was probably in the area, but no cancellation of message has so far been received.
(D.D.I.C. 1547A/10 to O.P.N.A.V.)
N.C.S.O. Panama 2047/9 has been passed to O.P.N.A.V. O.P.N.A.V. has been informed that DESPATCH was probably in this area but that no cancellation of QQQQ has yet been received, and has been requested to state whether U.S.warships were also in vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1724A/10, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

PASTEUR. Urgently desired to bring PASTEUR carrying service personnel back to U.K. leaving Halifax about (date). Can three R.C.N. Destroyers be made available for this escort, subsequently returning with C.T. 3?
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1622A/10 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

T.C.14. Can estimated sailing date from Halifax and proposed ships for T.C.14 with total accommodation now be given.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1634Z/10 to D. of S.T.)

MEROPE. Arrival 10th.
(Tampico 1641/10.)

NIAGARA. RICHMOND 0205Z/10. (see Casualties.) NIAGARA is being despatched forthwith to assistance CANDYTUFT and BITTERSWEET.
(C.C.N.F., 1749Z/10, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1749Z/10 also repeated to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.
(C.C.N.F.2347Z/10.)

/"Q" Report....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

"Q"Report SURREY. Your 1724A/10. (N.T. in W.D.). This QQQQ is assumed to be the same as that referred to in B.A.D. 2125R/4 and my 2232Q/5. B.A.D.reported that time given in his above quoted signal as 1320Z/4 should probably have been 1320R/4. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1752Q/10 to Admty.)

CAP TOURAINE COMPIEGNE. Saigon 8/9 B.2. S.S.CAP TOURAINE and COMPIEGNE for (?France) via Madagascar and ships at Sikiang for Madagascar sailed 6/9. Escort ship Sloop ADMIRAL CHARNER and probably two submarines also left same date. It is believed this force is acting as escort to the above merchantmen.. 40 Germans the first of a group of 250 for French Foreign Legion are reported on board S.S.CAP TOURAINE returning to fight for Germany. Repeated C. in C. China, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., and S.O.(I) Capetown.
(B.A.D.Washington 1757/10.)

CATHAY. B.A.R.M. 1119/9. CATHAY will be taken in hand for refit at Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. Anticipated date of departure U.K. 20/9.
(D.O.D.(F) 1846A/10 to C. in C.W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Royal New Zealand Navy. Mr. Nash, acting Prime Minister, announced in N.Z.Parliament 10/9 that the King had approved of the New Zealand Naval Forces being given the distinction of the name "Royal New Zealand Navy" and of the ships being designated "H.M.New Zealand Ships." (The Times 11/9/41.)

Suspect W/T Op. in Belgian Ship. My 0524Z/13/5 Emile Rene Wuytt, Ex Belgian Tanker ALEXANDRE ANDRE, on appeal was released from internment and placed on parole on 4/7/1941. Left Australia in GLENSHIEL sailing from Sydney 21/8 under instructions from Belgian Consul with a number of Belgian reservists on the understanding that he will join the Belgian forces on arrival in England.
(A.C.N.B., 0308Z/10, to Admty.)

U.S.12A. CANBERRA escorting U.S.12A left Fremantle 1545Z/9 for Trincomalee.
(A.C.N.B., 0322Z/10, to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42 (attacked 9/9).

Your 1522A/9. (Attack on Convoy S.C.42, see Shipping). Sailed GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA and WETASKIWIN, at 0015/10, BUTTERMERE WINDERMERE at 2000. (A.C.I.C., 0033/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
2 ships torpedoed 061° 32' 040° 51'.
(SKEENA, 0333Z/10 to Admty., etc).
One ship torpedoed 061° 38' 040° 40'.
(SKEENA, 0513Z/10 to Admty).
One ship torpedoed 061° 50' 040° 18'.
(SKEENA, 0800Z/10 to Admty., etc).
2 ships in S.C. 42 torpedoed at 0335Z/10 in 061° 32' N., 080° (?40°) 51' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 0821A/10 to GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA etc).
(D.D.I.C., 0925A/10 to C.P.N.A.V.)
Ship torpedoed 062° 14' 039° 29'.
(SKEENA, 1444Z/10 to Admty., etc).
My 0333Z/10 WACI Sect. 1 part 102 (A) Illuminated stern (?appeared) by starshell. U-boat sighted on the surface starboard beam No. 75 no contact obtained. (B) Starboard hard. (C) WACI diagram N.E. 4 all positions filled. (D) HARON (?BARON) PENTLAND No. 45. TASCEE (?TAHCHEE) No. 42 (regard) salvage possibilities of both ships good (E) 0333Z/10 in D.R. 61.32 N., 40.51 W., (F) Course 43° since 2200Z/10. (G) Clear night full moon sea smooth. (H) U-boat appears to have attacked on surface between column 7 and 9.
My0513Z/10. (A) Illuminated area by Starshell. Biplane not sighted and no contact obtained. (B) (?Aircraft) attacked from both sides. (C) WACI North East Beta (B) position G vacant (D) SALLY MAERSK No. 121 WINTERWYCH (?WINTERSWIJK) No. 25 MUNERIC Number 12 (E) 0510Z/10 in D.R. 61 38 N., 40.40 W., (F) As for 0333Z attack (G) As for 0333Z attack (H) At least 2 U-boats must have attacked from bow position.
My 0800Z/10. (A) S/M not sighted. No contact obtained (B) Port sideway attack correctly signalled (C) SKEENA (only ship present) ahead of convoy (D) C.A.M. Ship S.S. EMPIRE CLAN No. 21. Possibility of salvage good. (E) 0800Z/10 in D.R. 61.50 N., 40.18 0333Z attack. (G) Daylight clear sky visibility good.
My 1444 Z/10 (A) Periscope sighted and contact obtained 283° two miles from torpedoed ship. One Pounce attack with pattern 10 charge and two deliberate attacks also with 10 charge pattern carried out on submarine echo.
Result believed successful. (B) Unknown (C) WACI disgram D.E.3. All positions filled.
(D) THISTLEGLEN No. 91 (E) 1444Z/10 in D.R. 62.14 N., 39.29 W., (F) As for 0332Z attack (G) As for 0800Z attack (H) U-boat attempted to escape by remaining under convoy. Periscope (?sighted) astern when convoy resumed original course.
In addition above REGIN 74 23 is reported as missing. (SKEENA 2205Z/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1105. Am over enemy submarine in 46.23 N., 11.22 W., Enemy sub. previously reported sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 260° speed 8 knots. (A/C call sign 5YTU 1105/10 to 19 Group.)

1305. ASV contact in position 59.25 N., 10.11 W., probably a submarine, no enemy has been sighted (?visibility) 15 miles. (A/C using call sign SJ8A, 1305/10 to 15 Group.)

Seaplane and U/B 8/9. Skippers of trawlers DEASIDE and DELHI report that on anchoring at midnight 8/9 in 52° 7' 30" N., 6° 37' 12"W., seeing a Heinkel 115 seaplane take off from 52° 8' 6" 6° 35' 48" and fly between trawlers and S Saltee Island to the S.W. Sound of batteries being charged heard for two hours in direction of where plane came from, but nothing seen. Bright moonlight at time A.2. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1356A/10to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C.1410A/10.)

1232 G.M.T. D/F bearings at 1232 G.M.T. indicate U.Boat may be in vicinity of Convoy O.N.12. (D.D.I.C.1426A/10 to WORCESTERSHIRE, etc.)

1430. Enemy S/M in 61.50 N., 40.20 W. A/C using call sign 6 WUH 1430/10.)

1449 G.M.T. By D/F at 1449 G.M.T. U-Boat in area 55° to 56° N., 25° 30' to 25° 30' W. (D.D.I.C.1831A/10, to VERONICA etc.)

1811 G.M.T. By D/F at 1811 G.M.T. U-Boat in 48° 30' N., 13° 30' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2115A/10.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By S.S. DENBIGHSHIRE 1/9.

Master S.S.DENBIGHSHIRE reports (1) short action with submarine at 1450Z/1 in 59.21N., 9.21W. Three rounds fired at S/M which submerged and disappeared. Attempt to transmit distress message unsuccessful owing W/T failure (2) passed floating balloon type aircraft landing at 2045Z/3 in 60.55N., 32.56W-(3) passed floating black and blue canvas ball at 1415Z/4 marked in white G.K.4 and possible 2 other numbers.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 09490/10 to Admty.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in position 48° 20' N., 7° 5' W. Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 090°.
(A/C with Call Sign MK8T 1503/10.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 5 hits.
(A/C using call sign MK8T 1855/10 to H.Q. 19 Group. My 1949A/10 (not circulated.) Aircraft claim 5 hits with depth charges at 1855/10.
(F.O.S., 2129A/10 to TAKU.)

By GORLESTON.

In 014° 05' N., 018° 38' W., at 2002N., torpedo passed ahead, end of track attacked with depth charges. No asdic contact, R.D.F. out of action. Search abandoned at 2130N.
(GORLESTON, 2145/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

LONDON is patrolling the Western Approaches to the Denmark Straits. She was ordered to return to Hvalfjord at 2051A.

M.T.B. engagement.

M.T.B's 38, 218 and 219, on patrol near the Varne at 2230 fired 4 torpedoes without result at 3 armed trawlers off Gris Nez. M.G.B.'s 43 and 46, despatched from Dover in support closed the enemy at 2249 and engaged them for 20 minutes. Several E or R boats may have been present. M.G.B. 43 and M.T.B. 219 were slightly damaged and the former had some casualties. No results of the fire of our own ships were seen, though many hits are claimed.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy E.C.72 was bombed this afternoon off Harwich no ships were damaged. WORCESTER reported that she suspected an aircraft, which was flying at 50 ft., of minelaying. The convoy was bombed again from 2000 today. (See 12/9).

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Spurn Point today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

The Uruguayan Government have signed a decree taking over the 2 Italian and 2 Danish ships in Montevideo.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

A single aircraft of Bomber Command operating from U.K. Dropped bombs on Genoa last night.

6 Blenheims today hit and seriously damaged a 3,000 ton escorted merchant ship in 240°, Cape Matapan 110 miles.

Libya and Western Desert.

Slight damage was caused at Tobruk by enemy bombing last night. 2 fighters were lost in an air battle over A lighters on passage to Tobruk. The lighters arrived safely and discharged.

Mersa Matruh was bombed again today, and slight damage was caused.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and one Derna last night.

Egypt and Canal Area.

The last mine in the Suez Canal exploded spontaneously at 1703C today, and the Canal is now considered clear.

Syria and Palestine.

Bombs were dropped S.E. of Acre last night and north of Acre today. No damage was caused.

Cyprus.

There was an air raid on Larnaca between 0500 and 0520 today. No damage was caused.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign.

Renewed attacks on Convoy S.C.42 3 further ships torpedoed.

Attacks on S.C. 42 continued today, SKEENA reports BULYSSES torpedoed at 0002Z in 63° N., 38° W.; GARM and BESTUM at 0210Z in 63° 2' N., 37° 51' W. GYPSUM QUEEN and STONEPOOL at 0332Z in 63° 5' N., 37° 50' W., SCANIA and EMPIRE CROSSBILL at 0514Z in 63° 14' N., 37° 12' W. ORILLA, last seen at 1205Z/10 taking TAHCHER in tow, was missing at 1700Z today, but she eventually arrived in Iceland (C). ~~The report of torpedoing of BESTUM was incorrect.~~ It appears that BERURY Was torpedoed at 0050.
COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX left Iceland at 2135Z today to reinforce the escort of S.C. 42. Tugs are being sent to bring in three ships which it is hoped to salve.

At 1851A the convoy was still being shadowed and the escort ships were warned to expect attack by large numbers of U-boats.

At 0257Z KENOGAMI sighted a U-boat on the port side of the convoy and reported the U-boat probably destroyed.

MONTANA torpedoed.

At 1445 an aircraft saw S.S. MONTANA (Panamanian) sailing independently, torpedoed in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W.

U-boat Attacked.

An aircraft attacked a U-boat this morning in 48° 0' N., 10° 30' W., and estimated two hits.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

26th M.L. Flotilla for Gibraltar.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail 2 corvettes of 36th E.G. to arrive Londonderry a.m./13th. Each corvette is to embark at Liverpool 1,000 gallons of 87 Octane petrol in tins or drums.
2. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail 26th M.L. Flotilla when ready, escorted by the two corvettes, to Gibraltar issuing necessary orders in accordance with Admiralty's 1155A/24/8.
3. Route.
4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions.
5. After escorting Convoy to Gibraltar, corvettes will be ordered to return to U.K. with H.G.74.
(C.in C., W.A. 0026A/11.)

JUMNA for E.I. Station.

A.M.1930/9. C.in C., W.A. is requested to sail JUMNA as part escort for an O.S. Convoy to Freetown as soon as her minesweeping winch and sweep wires are replaced on board.
2. C.in C., S.A. is requested to arrange for her onward passage to E.I. Station at best speed.
3. Arrangements will be made to forward Oerlikon Guns. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0128A/11.)

EREBUS.

Admiralty 1747/9. Request you sail EREBUS for the Clyde at the first possible opportunity. No further working up period can be accepted.
(A.C.N.S(H) 1047A/11.)

Cruiser requirements.

Your 1342A/9. Para.(a). An 8 inch cruiser will be detailed. (ii) Para. (? (b) ). This cruiser will provide ocean escort for return of "Dervish" (iii) Paras. (b) and (d) my 2153A/9 refers.
(C.in C., H.F. 1110A/11.)

BORDE.

F.O.I.C. Humber has reported that as M.D. ship BORDE is now without a mate, he considers it useless to keep her in commission.
It is considered that the operational value of a single ship of this size and type is small and particularly so on the east coast where much shallow water and liability to frequent air attack exist. Request instructions.
(C.in C. Nore 1144A/11.)

/ Veidileysu .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd)

Veidileysu Fiord.

C.in C., H.F. wishes to be able to use Veidileysu Fiord 066° 20'N 022° 42'W for refuelling A/S Ships. Can SCOTT be spared to visit this anchorage on passage and suggest what aids to navigation are required. (A.C.I.C. 1227Z/11 to R.A.M.)

S/M at Pembroke for C.C. Practices.

Admiralty 1741A/10.
A. Regret that the requirement of a S/M at Pembroke for Coastal Command bombing practices can only be met (1) At the expense of A/S practices. (2) By detailing an operational S/M for this purpose.
B. In view of the very depleted state of the operational flotillas, and the heavy commitments for A/S training, it is for consideration whether the requirements of A.O.C. in C.,C.C. could not be met by arranging bombing practices in conjunction with A/S practices in the Clyde area, necessary arrangements being made by the local authorities concerned.
(F.O.S. 1308A/11.)

4th M.L. Flotilla.

4th M.L.F. with spare crew, maintenance staff, and base stores are to be withdrawn from Iceland and will be based at Troon.
2. A.C.I.C. is requested to report when this flotilla will be ready to sail and C.in C., H.F. is requested to provide escort from Iceland to Scapa as necessary.
3. A.C.I.C. is requested to route the flotilla as far as Scapa and A.C.O.S. to sail flotilla from Scapa to Troon.
(D.D.O.D.C. 1805A/11.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland. Accommodation for Winter.

Admiralty 1129A/9. Port Reykjavik is shared between British and U.S. Armies and Iceland. Naval requirements hardly affect situation. BALDUR has not occupied any quay for many months but is berthed outside ships unloading. Negligible proportion of quayage has been occupied by Naval Stores lately.

/ When .....

INCOMPLETE

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT

### Home Commands

Soviet Operations

Soviet M.T.B's claim to have torpedoed 2 transport off Petsamo last night.

### British Air Operations

Blenheims today attacked shipping off Borkum and claim to have sunk a 2000 ton and a 3500 ton ship and to have left a 3000 ton ship sinking. Targets were also attacked at Haugesund and Karm Sound.

### Enemy Air Operations

The Norwegian tanker VINGA (a straggler from O.S. 6.) was bombed and damaged at 0820 today in approx. 58° 1' N., 13° 20' W.

Convoy E.C. 73 was bombed again at 2010 off Scarborough. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.G. 72 was attacked about 1950 in 51° 59' N., 5° 50' W. SS DARU was sunk.

### Mining

Operation S.N. 23 B.

PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK left Port Z.A. at 1954 today.

Clyde.

Tug FLYING KITE was blown up this afternoon apparently by a mine laid prior to 8/4/41 in Dalmuir Basin, ATLANTIC COCK and another tug ~~destroyer~~ were damaged. The Clyde was closed for a short time.

Tanker PONTFIELD in F.S. 94 was mined off the Outer Dowsing in the early hours of today and broke in half.

Mines were detonated off the Humber and Nab Tower.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland. Accommodation for Winter. (Contd)

When transit shed completed no Naval Stores ( ? will) occupy (? quayage) at all. In view of acute inconvenience suffered during past year, personnel will be considerably more comfortable ashore and proposal will be submitted for extension of Naval camp accordingly. G.O.C. is being consulted and written report follows. (A.C.I.C. 1553/11.)

Movements.

PUCKERIDGE.

On completion of exercises tomorrow PUCKERIDGE proceed to Portsmouth to join command of C.in C. Portsmouth. Route. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange fighter protection from daylight 14th when ship will be off Lands End.
(R.A.D. 0934A/11 to PUCKERIDGE.)

KENYA.

Scapa departure C.S.10 in KENYA.
(A.C.O.S. 1113A/11.)

Force A.

C.in C., H.F. 0045A/11. Intend to proceed passing through Swiths Gate at 1705 today. E.T.A.1100A/12.
(S.O. Force A 1156A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

EREBUS.

Return to Scapa.
(C.in C., H.F. 1427/11 to EREBUS.)

SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, OLIGARCH.

E.T.A. Seidis (?Fiord) 0900A/12, SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD. Request oiler be informed. Estimated Oiler OLIGARCH and escort left vicinity G.G. 2000A/10 routed through 070° 33'N 008° 20'W thence round North Cape. S. of A. (?8) knots. E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1200A/15.
(Capt. D.3. 1611A/11).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.41,
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Gibraltar — A message was sent to the Governor of Gibraltar today regarding air attack.

Mediterraan

Libya and Western Desert. — 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour last night.

Egypt and Canal Area — Alexandria was bombed by a few enemy aircraft from 0400 to 0500 today. Slight damage was caused.

Aegean — Many ships are reported loading military stores and personnel at Piraeus. TORBAY has been ordered to establish a patrol in the Aegean.

A press report today states that within the last three days Greek irregulars sank an Italian transport and seriously damaged another by fire, in Salonika harbour.

U-Boat Campaign

SS NEWBURY, ex convoy O.N. 14 reported that she was torpedoed at 0552 today in 54° 39' N., 28° 4' W.

A submarine was reported at 1306 G.C.T. today in 20° 30' N., 72° 30' W., U.S. planes are searching.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy "Dervish".

Cancel my 1735A/8 and my 1802A/8. An additional ship the DUKE OF SPARTA is being included in the "Dervish" Convoy. The last 3 ships for this convoy namely HARMONIC, RIVER AFTON, and DUKE OF SPARTA are to be sailed in convoy O.N.18 for Hvalfiord. Ship will leave Clyde 20/9. Speed of this Convoy is to be reduced as necessary to include these ships.
Probable date of departure of "Dervish" from Hvalfiord will therefore be (-).
(A.C.N.S. H., 1724A/11) (D.O.D. H., 1025A/12).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

My 1308A/10. Return to Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F. 2051A/11 to LONDON).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 1850/10, para (3). (?Air patrol) off, owing to thick fog. (A.C.I.C., 0910/11).
"Stand" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1002/11).
"Fox" and "Bear" being carried out by Hudsons at noon. (A.C.I.C., 1206/11).
"Hornli" in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1444/11).
My 1024. R/C unsuccessful owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1654/11).
My 1206/11. Patrols not completed owing to fog.
(A.C.I.C., 1859/11).
"Stab" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2104/11).

NIGERIA Fighter Protection.

558 Request Fighter protection for one Cruiser and two Destroyers from Daylight/12 until 1200/12.
Ships pass 22A Buoy at 0600A/12 on passage to Tyne.
(C. in C. H.F. 0915A/11 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operations "Nomad" "Intruder".

1. Carry out operation "Nomad" tonight with four A/C 53 Sqdn. between Ostend and Texel.
2. Three A/C of 500 Sqdn. to be at immediate readiness tonight for "Intruder" operations on instructions from this H.Q. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 1349/11 to Bircham Newton).

One Reporting Vessel claimed damaged.

During day 10/9 one A/C attacked a Reporting Vessel 63 miles N.W. of Vlieland. Near misses were recorded. The vessel was seen to rock violently and in all probability was damaged.
(H.Q.B.C., 1515/11).

/C.A. Sweep.....

INCOMPLETE

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.41
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya and Western Desert.

10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night and report hits on ships alongside Spanish Quay. Two aircraft laid mines in the harbour.

The enemy have advanced in the area south of Sidi Barrani, and the [redacted] The 7th C.S. and destroyers operated last night off Mersa Matruh.

America and West Indies.

A U.S. cruiser, aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers have left U.S.A. for raider patrol in the Atlantic.

U-Boat Campaign.

U-Boats were located today by D/F in 70° 41' N. 41° 41' E. and 70° 3' N. 41° 8' E.

DOUGLAS reported one ship torpedoed at 2114 in 59° 42' N. 10° W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

C.A. Sweep.

C.A. sweep of six Whitleys in line abreast five miles apart to proceed from Wick to Reykjavik taking off at 0100 B.S.T. and landing at Reykjavik. Centre line of sweep Cape Wrath - Vesterman Islands. (A.C.H.Q. Rosyth, 1935/11).

Iceland A/C Reinforcements.

Propose reinforcing you with 2 Catalinas from Obanka, Whitleys from Wick, Catalinas arriving dawn/12 and Whitleys before 1000/12. Further 6 Whitleys from 502 Squadron on parallel sweep from Limavady to Reykjavik will arrive dusk 12/9 subject to weather. Of utmost importance to maintain maximum effort for cover of convoy. Keep this headquarters 15 and 18 Groups informed of aircraft situation and weather every 3 hours. (H.Q.C.C., 2000/11 to R.A.F. Iceland).

M/V Attacked off Sogne Fiord.

2 Enemy M/Vs 2,000 tons bearing 090°, 5 miles, course 220°, in 61° 3' N., 4° 58' E. (A/C, F.H.7 A. 2302/11)
Have attacked enemy M/V with dive bombs and estimate 2 hits. (A/C F.H.7 A. 2310/11).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.C.72 bombed.

One Enemy A/C shadowing, bearing 150° 5 miles from Convoy "Might". My position 51° 56' N., 1° 40' E. (WIDGEON, 1440/11) (VIMIERA 1445/11).
Enemy A/C bombing Convoy "Might" position 51° 56' N. 1° 40' E. (WIDGEON, 1450/11) (VIMIERA, 1452/11).
Enemy A/C bombing Convoy "Might" position 52° 27' N. 2° 3' E., course 015°, 8 knots. (VIMIERA, 2000/11).
One Aeroplane bearing 030°, 2 miles, course 260° My position, 340°, 52° 31' N., 2° 4' E. (VERDUN, 2002/11).
One enemy A/C shot down by VIMIERA burning in water. Am searching for survivors. (VIMIERA, 2018/11).
1 Shadowing A/C "Might" convoy. Position 52° 49' N 2° 9' E., course 335°, speed 5 knots. (VIMIERA, 2343/11).

A/C over Orkneys.

At 1347/11 E/A Approached Hoy from Westward, passed over Fleet anchorage at 24000 feet on an easterly course. A/C was visually identified by three gun sites as a Junkers 88. Two fighters were sent up from CASTLETOWN but failed to intercept. First R.D.F. plot was at 1354 when A/C was to E. of Orkney, and last plot received when A/C was 90 miles E.S.E. of a Buoy. Assumed A/C saw into Fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S., 1545/11).

/CONAKRIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.- Contd.

CONAKRIAN attacked. At 1524/11 single enemy A/C, type unidentified, dropped one bomb on South Bank River Don about 200 yards from S.S. CONAKRIAN. No damage or casualties. A/C then passed over Aberdeen Harbour at about 2500 ft. height and proceeded Eastward to sea being fired at by examination vessel simultaneously with civil warning sounding. No A/A fire opened from A/A defences. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1707/11).

Mining.

Iceland. ODERIN, EMBERLY. Motor Mine Sweepers ODERIN and EMBERLY have arrived Iceland. Request instructions. (A.C.I.C., 1145/11).

Off Felixstowe. 1 A/C bearing 060° 8 miles. My position 51° 56' N. 1° 28' E. (WORCESTER, 1147/11)
My 1144. A/C at 50 feet possibly Minelaying. (WORCESTER, 1158/11).

Spurn Point. The Following mine was detonated at 0638 today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 2137A/11).

East Coast S.A. Sweep. WINDSOR. C. in C. Rosyth's 1225A/9. Request you sail WINDSOR by Swept Channels for Tyne so as to arrive p.m./14.
Speed on passage to be 20 knots, and S.A. Gear is to be operated whilst on passage. Fighter protection should be asked for. (C. in C. Nore, 2330A/11 to D.16).

Enemy Intelligence.

LUTZOW. LUTZOW in tow of 2 tugs sighted (?apparently) entering Kiel Canal at Holtenau on route for Brunnsbuttel. Graded B.3.
(Asst. N.A. Stockholm, 1446/11).
Your 1446/11. Request time and date of this movement. (D.D.I.C., 2155A/11 to N.A. Stockholm).

Christiansand in Early September. (A.N.A., Stockholm 1447/11).

/Off.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - contd.

Off Sogne Fiord. — 2 enemy M/V's 2,000 tons bearing 090°, 5 miles, course 220°, position 61° 3' N., 4° 58' E. (A/C F.H.7A. 2302/11).

DINANT, MOURISCA, (Trawlers) off Slyne Head. — At 1600/11 in 53° 30' N., 11° 17' W. A/C saw 2 trawlers, odd-looking superstructure, flying yellow and orange flag. Both appeared very modern and well looked after their names were DINANT, MOURISCA. DINANT was marked F.5095 BV, MOURISCA was marked F.5096 BV. Course 200° T, speed 15 knots. (A.C.H.Q. 2359/11 to H.Q., 15 Group).

Miscellaneous.

Iceland - Faeroes cable broken by BARDALAND. — Your 1441/10. Provision of cable and cable ship would be welcome. Following cable required. Present break appears near an old repair and grappling this cable would endanger connection to Shetlands. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1000A/11).
Your 1145/10. Master computes position was 6° 43½' W., 61° 59½ ' N. (B.C. Gothenburg, 1500/11 to Admty).

Buoy with Flag. — CASSEQUEL in 40° 15' N., 17° 16' W. Floating red buoy with white flag. Master. Ends. (Valentia Radio, 1003/11).

Casualties and Defects.

NIGERIA (Damaged 7/9). HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL, LAMERTON, BADSWORTH. — NIGERIA is to proceed as necessary to pass 22 A. Buoy at 0600A/12 and thence to Tyne to be taken in hand for repairs.
(ii) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to provide A/S Screen of 2 destroyers as far as 22 A Buoy.
(iii) S.A. Escort from 22 A., Buoy has been arranged in accordance with C. in C. Nore 2232A/10. (C. in C. H.F., 0045A/11).
C. in C. Nore 2232A/10. R/V with NIGERIA at 22A buoy 0600/12, relieve A/S, destroyer escort, and then act as S.A.escort to NIGERIA by war Channel to Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1050/11 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL).
Scapa departure S.O.Force A in NIGERIA escorted by LAMERTON and BADSWORTH. (A.C.O.S., 1711A/11).

KONGSDAL. — My 1923A/9. KONGSDAL arrived. (D.D.I.C., 1252A/11).

/BURZA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BURZA, (collision 8/9). Your 1445/10 and F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1805A/10. Damage details. Approx. time for repairs would be ten days. Ship will have to come up harbour and Messrs. Fairfield will undertake the damage repairs only on 16/9. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1325/11).

EMERAUDE, BARDALE, HAMLA. (Grounded 9/9). Arrived tug MARAUDER. Report from Commander Kay, Liverpool Salvage Company as follows.
EMERAUDE broadside on to rocks. Leakage at present under control. Require shallow draft craft for discharge. This only possible at high water.
BARDALE refloated 2230 yesterday, leaking slightly No. 1 hold. Pump installed, vessel safe to proceed Clyde via Oban.
HAMLA No. 1 hold half full, increasing rapidly. Operations proceeding.
MARAUDER landed crew of HAMLA for night at Stornoway, proceeding with crew and extra stores at 0600 tomorrow. (N.O.I.C.Stornoway 1553A/11).

M/L 163. Damaged in collision with R.A.F. Pinnace No. 59 on 10/9. Estimated time for repairs 5 days. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1819/11).

Shipping and Convoys.

STRATHEDEN. To be used for voyage commencing from Clyde 16/9. Equipment, etc. of units left in DUCHESS OF ATHOLL to be transferred to STRATHEDEN. (D.S.T., 0816A/11 to D.S.T.O. Glasgow).

DOMINION MONARCH, HIGHLAND PRINCESS. DOMINION MONARCH will now be included in W.S.12, code number B.19, and she will embark at Liverpool.
(2) Sailing date of HIGHLAND PRINCESS will not be before 26/9., but will be confirmed in due course. (D.S.T., 0820A/11 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

Soviet Convoy. Soviet convoy of 2 ships escorted by 2 URITSKI class destroyers sailed Murmansk for Archangel at 1100C/11 S. of A 8 knots. Admty pass to ELECTRA, HARRIER. (British S.N.O. Murmansk, 1414C/11).

T.C.14. My 1725/22/8. Position in regard to T.C.14 is now as follows. (D.S.T., 1614A/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/E.C.72.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

E.C.72 additional escort. — Your1016/11 regret BROKE cannot be spared for this duty. Request she may be sailed direct to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1622A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

S.S. MANELA. — Carrying R.A.F. personnel to Freetown is leaving U.K. in O.S.7.
2. Request you will detail one escort to accompany MANELA in case of dispersal of the convoy. (D.O.D. (H) 1920A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Aircraft Recognition Signals. — The issue of extracts from Aircraft Recognition Signals to Commodores of Convoy should be discontinued. (D.T.D. 2124A/11 to N.C.S.O.'s and C's in C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S.L.86 — Your 1318A/10. Request check of position of S.L.86. (D.T.D. 0024A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRUSTY. — My position is 043° N. 010° 40' W. course 187° S. of A. 12½ knots. Weather. (TRUSTY, 0601A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0601A. Adjust speed to R/V escort in position (R) at 1900A/13. If unable to comply within 1 hour signal E.T.A. position (R) when crossing 009° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1310A/11 to TRUSTY.)

BRITISH FREEDOM. — Your 1250A/10. BRITISH FREEDOM not arrived nor has she been sighted. My 2254A/8 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/11 to Admty.)

French Ships. — Arrival Setubal 9th CAUDEBEC LE TRAIT. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1121/11.)

SOKOL. — (i) On crossing 043° N. report your P.C. and S. of A. (ii) onward route position. (S) 038° 00' 010' 40' (T) 036° 35' 009° 00' (U) 350° Spartel 10 miles for inward escort. (iii) Diving by day on (?13th). Appropriate bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1308A/11 to SOKOL.)

PROTEUS. — Intend to sail PROTEUS for Malta p.m./14 subject to completion of defects routed through 038° 15' N. 009° 00' E. thence as ordered by V.A. Malta. PROTEUS crosses 009° E. a.m./17. Cargo R.A.F. Stores and 65 tons D.T.D. 230 Petrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/11.)

CONSBRO. — Your 1049/11. Confirmed that CONSBRO is at Londonderry, ship put back shortly after sailing and message 2114/10 from R.O. Horta must be in error in the position given for CONSBRO.
(D.O.D.(F) 1726A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LADY SHIRLEY. — My 1731/9. Auxiliary A/S Tanker (GZQS) LADY SHIRLEY proceeding direct to Gibraltar after carrying out submarine search in vicinity of Islands Desertas and Porto Santo. Speed 9 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 2015C/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EDINBURGH
CAMERONIA.

Request you will sail EDINBURGH forthwith at best speed to Gibraltar where she should arrive (date) at latest. 2. Request you will arrange A.M.C. escort for CAMERONIA. (1st S.L. 0023A/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

GORLESTON,
O.S.4.

Admty. 1723A/6. Report your P.C. and S. at following times, 0900Z and 2100Z on each of the following days, 4th, 5th and 6/9, and to what extent these differed from your estimated position at time. Forward a track chart on return to harbour. (C.in C. S.A., 0221N/11 to GORLESTON.) Reply: 2359N/12.

CAMERONIA.

Your 1455/9. Report whether the 445 personnel awaiting passage from Freetown to U.K. take into account any embarked in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and SOBIESKI in accordance with your 1151/13/8. P.S.T.O. Simonstown is requested to reply regarding accommodation available in CAMERONIA. (D. of S.T. 0819A/11 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 0349/5. Request CAMERONIA be drydocked before leaving South Africa if practicable without delaying escort arrangements. (D.S.T. 1028A/11 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
CAMERONIA further delayed by defects and E.T.D. from Durban now 14/9. As dock at Durban not available, propose ship sails from Capetown for Freetown as soon as PRETORIA CASTLE is available probably 18/9. Alternative of possibly docking Simonstown would entail too great delay. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2123B/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

REINA DEL
PACIFICO.

Your 0338/31/5 REINA DEL PACIFICO sailed for Halifax and U.K. 7/9 E.T.A. Halifax 25/9. Ship sustained damage at Capetown in collision with BRITANNIC, repairs estimated take 7 days otherwise only normal voyage repairs. Loaded Capetown 3989 tons including 1508 tons Citrus. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown 0956B/11 to D. of S.T.)

SOBO
PINZON.

Your 1558A/10. See my 1551N/6 and my 0901N/11. (Bathurst 1030N/11 to Admty.)

French
ships,
Dakar.

Meter Dakar 10/9 A one. 2 Destroyers and French S/M parent ship JULES VERNE have put to sea for what is said to be manoeuvres. FORT DE VAUX, AISNE have sailed for southward. (B.A.D. Washington 1233R/11 to S.O.(I) Freetown.)

/Suspicious

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Suspicious tanker. U.S.S. LONE STAR reports sighting a large Tanker stopped, possibly a supply ship p.m./25/8 in 25° 53' S. 04° 19' W. Master's suspicions roused because unknown Tanker burned two white flares and later showed one red light high up amidships. Vessel would not respond to LONE STAR's signals by lamp at close distance. Tanker's course when last seen was approx. 315°. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1445/11.)

BORDEAUX. Departure. Duala 13.9.41. (N.C.S.O. Lagos 1800Z/11.)

NESTOR. Damage by depth charges. Am proceeding Freetown direct. E.T.A.1130Z/12. My p.c. and s. are 013° 09' N. 017° 12' W. 185° 25 knots. (NESTOR 1830Z/11 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
My 1830. Both sliding feet port H.P. Turbine fractured. Speed reduced to 18 knots. E.T.A. now 1900. Route through following positions A 11 13 N. 17 16 W. B 8 28 N. 14 38 W. My P.C. and S. are 12 05 N. 17 29 W. 166° 18 knots. (NESTOR 2200Z/11.)

ALCANTARA CARNARVON CASTLE. R.A.S.A.D. 1243Z/8 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1642Z/8 unless it is necessary for ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE to R/V for specific purpose following programme is intended. CARNARVON CASTLE leave Simonstown 26/9 arrive Tristan da Cunha 30/9 depart 1/10 arrive L.31 7/10. ALCANTARA leave S.A.D. about 4/10 to arrive Simonstown 14/10. R.A.S.A.D. is requested to signal concurrence or otherwise. (C. in C. S.A. 2025N/11 to R.A.S.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

LORINDA. B. of E. into loss. Summary of finding. (C. in C. S.A. 2201N/11.) See Lion Copy.

Axis ships taken over. Uruguayan Government have signed decree taking over the 2 Italian and 2 Danish ships in Montevideo. Ships will be run by National Port Administration on Inter American Trade. (N.S.O.(1) Montevideo 2251Z/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Palestine. Hostile aircraft number unknown probably 4 approached Haifa between 0300 and 0400/11. Fighters sent up, no contact. Some H.E. bombs dropped north of Acre no damage no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 09360/11.)

GLENROY, CLAN FORBES. Admty. 1330/23/8. GLENROY with 35 officers 550 O.R., 300 tons stores and CLAN FORBES with (?23) officers 400 O.R. and 370 tons stores will be ready to leave Suez on (date). GLENROY will be loaded for anchorage at T and CLAN FORBES for anchorage at W but it may be necessary for CLAN FORBES to call at T. S. of A. of both ships is 15 knots. GLENROY should return to Suez immediately after discharging at T. CLAN FORBES after discharging at W is required to proceed to Calcutta. (? C. in C. E.I.) is requested to say whether escort is likely to (be) available. (C. in C. Med. 13250/11 to C. in C. E.I., China, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Larnaka Larnaka air raided between 0500 and 0520. 11 bombs near aerodrome. No flares used. No casualties or damage. (N.O.i/c Famagusta 13510/11.)

Rumanian vessels. M.V. BALCIC expected to load for Trieste but instead brought short notice for sea. Other 2 Rumanian vessels in Istanbul, BESSARABIA, TRANSYLVANIA, painting out flag on ship's side. (Beyoglu 1714/11.)

Air Operations. 0030 to 0445/11 8 Wellingtons attacked area train ferries landing stage and ferry power house Messina. Total 24250 lbs. dropped smoke screen and cloud obscured target area. Results not observed opposition moderate no searchlights. Day 11/9 6 Blenheims on 105 Squadron offensive sweep central Ionian Sea to Greece two waves three aircraft. 1000 hours first wave found 1 destroyer 1 M/V 1000 tons 1 M/V 3000 tons 240°. Cape Matapan 110 miles attack on larger M/V 2 definite hits 2 others probable resulting in smoke amidships. Photos. confirm hits claimed seriously damaged.
P.M.11/9 2 Blenheims same squadron despatched attack 1 southbound M/V 5000 tons near Kerkenah still out. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1720/11.)

/Libyan

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libyan convoys. Your 1823 and 1830/4 (a) Italian crews are not conscripted but 30% bonus is paid on Libyan run (b) crews discontented and badly fed. Incident at Trieste end of August when a ship refused to sail for Benghazi. Crew arrested. (c) on Aug. 23rd 4 ships loading at Trieste for (?Libya) and 2 damaged had been awaiting repairs for 3 weeks due to shortage of materials. At Fiume several ships lying idle including two tankers. All above from crew of Rumanian BALCIC graded B 2. Consul General informed. (N.S.O.(I) Istanbul 1729/11 to Admty.

Illegal Jewish immigrants. Up to present it has been impossible to allocate shipping for Capetown. Palestine Government are pressing for shipment. Suggest RANGITIKI be allocated. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1850/11.)

Suez Canal. Object at km. 158.6 spontaneously exploded at 1703C/11. Canal now considered clear. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1853C/11.)

PRU. Photographs 11/9. Messina, Palermo. Details. (V.A. Malta 2253B/11.)

Situation Report No.145. 2 Army Officers 3 O.R. and 9 Greeks picked up by JACKAL proceeding in Caique from Greece to Alexandria.
2. 2 Fighters lost in battle over A repeat A Lighters on passage to Tobruk. A Lighters arrived safely and discharged.
3. Palestine Coast Ferry Steamer MURETTE sunk by gunfire by enemy submarine at 2220/10 in position 33° 12' N. 34° 55' E. in delivery voyage to Turks. (C. in C. Med. 2359C/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| SUTLEJ JUMNA. | SUTLEJ and JUMNA have landed their minesweeping gear temporarily in U.K. Recommend they should re-embark it before transferring to E.I. Station. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0350Z/11 to C. in C. E.I.) |
| Ceylon. | Ref. Admty. 1720/20/7 and 1221/8. Recommending increase in stocks in Ceylon. (C. in C. E.I. 0726Z/11.) Approved (4th S.L. 1854A/15.) |
| Service personnel in unescorted ships. | Asking for increase from 100 to 150 Army and R.A.F. personnel permitted to be carried in unescorted vessels should it be necessary to avoid formation of escorted convoys. (C. in C. M.E. 1250/11 to W.O.) |
| U.S. 12 A HAWKINS EMERALD. | Fuelling arrangements. (C. in C. E.I. 1256Z/11.) See Operations Volume. |
| ATREUS ALGEY. | Duty at Port T. (D.T.M. 2118A/11) See Operations Volume. |

China.

| | |
|---|---|
| LE CONTE DE LISLE. | Arrival 11/9. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0610Z/11.) |
| A/S Escort. | In Eastern Theatre. (Adty. 2121A/11.) See Lion Copy. |
| Repatriation of Annamites. | (A.C.N.S.(F) 1929A/11 to C. in C. China.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Communications. Your 1937/8th. Navy Department have agreed that the 4 authorities mentioned should address Opnav direct in following types of message:-
(a) Urgent Operational signals of direct interest to U.S.
(b) Signals re routeing and diversion in address of which it is desired to include Opnav.
(ii) By arrangement B.A.D. Washington receive a copy of all these signals.
(B.A.D. Washington 1257R/11 to Adty.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Intended approx. programme. (LE TRIOMPHANT 1400W/11.)

A.M.C. for Iceland (C) In view of A.M.1709A/6 and diversion to Clyde of ALAUNIA carrying provisions for Iceland should an A.M.C. be sailed with next appropriate H.X. convoy to proceed Reykjavik with provisions in replacement. (R.A.3 1456P/11 to Adty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND (Hospital ship) Proposed route sailing about 15/9 destination Freetown. No code books held. Full navigation lights to be burnt. Are these orders correct for hospital ship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1614Z/11 to Adty.)

LIMOUSIN. Arrived St. Thomas 11th. (St. Thomas 1637/11.)

MEROPE. Departure 11th. (Tampico, Mex 1704/11.)

CALIFORNIA. Will be taken at Navy Yard Boston Mass. (B.A.R.M. Washington 1726R/11.)

Re Raider. Ref. 2047/9 from N.C.S.O. Panama (LOBOS renewed distress signal etc.) Following from DESPATCH via PRINCE HENRY and despatched to S.O.(I) Callao at former's request. Begins - S.O.(I) Callao from F.O. West Indies. For information. Raider's distress signal broadcast on 500 metres at 1820Z today Thursday was made G C B.J on sight PRINCE HENRY. She gave no name or position and when challenged gave wrong reply 1846/4 - Ends. (Panama 1731/11.)
Your 1630/10 negative. American destroyers GOFF and J. FRED TALBOTT were about 700 miles N.W. by N. of position given but made no report of receiving distress message. (Opnav 1813/11 to Adty.)

/S.S. MEROPE

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - contd.

S.S. MEROPE (French) — Opnav reports on 10/9 MEROPE arrived Tampico from Martinique. This has been passed to C.N.S. Ottawa for information by Opnav. (Spenavo London 1906/11.)

? — From position (j) steer 020° for 75 miles thence to (k) and resume route. Action Comtask unit one point one point eight and to Cinclant C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Admiralty for Info. This is paraphase Opnav eleven seventeen.
(Opnav 2100Z/11 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42 Ship torpedoed 063° 00' 038° 00'. (SKEENA, 0002Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

REGIN, VESTLAND, TAHCHEE, SALLY MAERSK, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, BERURY, THISTLEGLEN, SCANIA, BULYSSES, GARM, BESTUM, GYPSUM QUEEN, STONEPOOL, EMPIRE CROSSBILL, WINTERSWIJK, MUNERIC, torpedoed. Ship torpedoed 63° 0' N. 38° 0' W.*(A/C, 20 Sqdn. 0210/11 to Reykjavik W/T.)* at 0002.

Ship torpedoed 63° 02' N. (? 37°) 51' W. (SKEENA 0210Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

Ship torpedoed 63.05 N. 37.50 W. (SKEENA, 0332Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

Following received from Iceland. S S S S 25 torpedoed. (Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 0213/11 to Admty.) (A.C.O.S. from Wick Radio, No T.O.O./11)

2 ships torpedoed 063° 14' 037° 12'. (SKEENA 0514Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

Intercept De Mas (Iceland) (following has been read) SSSS 44 and 43 torpedoed T.O.R. 0515 (Ends). (Valentia Radio, 0522/11 to Admty.)

Following received by aircraft from SKEENA (?2050Z/10 begins "Ref.my 0333Z, 0600Z and 1444Z/10 (8) ships known to have been torpedoed. HORAN,*CELKLAND,≠ TASCEE,## SALLY MAUSKE, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, EMPIRE CLAN, THISTLE-GLEN, Salvage possibilities of HORAN, PENTLAND and TASCEE in 061° 31' N. 040° 51' W. and EMPIRE CLAN in 061° N. 040° 51' W. are good, ends." Intend sailing RESTIVE, CAROLINE MULLER, escorted by COLUMBIA and SAINT CROIX as soon as they are ready. (A.C.I.C. 1434/11 to C. in C. W.A.) *VESTLAND? ≠TAHCHEE? ##SALLY MAERSK? Abandoned ship sinking by bow 63° 40' N. 35° 50' W. (A/C 19 M.P.H. 1457/11.)

S.C.42 P.C. and S. 063° 55' N. 035° 23' W. 090° 5 knots. Following escorts now present. DOUGLAS, SKEENA, SALADIN, SKATE, VETERAN, LEAMINGTON, ALBERNI, KENOGAMI, MOOSEJAW, CHAMBLY, WETASKIWIN, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, BUTTERMERE, WINDERMERE. At 1205Z/10 ORILLA reported in 061° 15' N. 041° 05' W. taking TASCEE in tow. Was ordered to rejoin convoy immediately by signal made through aircraft but has not been heard from. Following ships torpedoed since my 1730Z/10. My 0002Z/11 DULYSHEH. My 0212Z/11 GARM, BASTUM. My 0332Z/11 GYPSUM QUEEN, STONEPOOL. My 0514Z/11 SCANIA, EMPIRE CROSSBILL, My 1730Z/10 add WINTERSWYK. At 0133Z/10 CHAMBLY and MOOSEJAW reported sinking U-Boat in 062° 55' N. 037° 50' W. 30 prisoners now in MOOSEJAW. At 0257Z/11 KENOGAMI sighted U-Boat on port side of convoy and reported U-Boat probably destroyed. At 1605Z/10 in 62° 14' N. 39° 29' W. SKEENA sighted periscope confirmed by ALBERNI and 2 ships in convoy. One Pounce and one deliberate attack carried out firing 10 charges (corrupt group) escort, echo faded after second attack further search proved fruitless U-Boat believed sunk. Weather report. (SKEENA 1700Z/11.)

/My 0002Z/11

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.9.1941
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42
REGIN,
VESTLAND,
TAHCHEE,
SALLY MAERSK,
STARGARD,
BARON PENTLAND,
BERURY,
THISTLEGLEN,
SCANIA,
BULYSSES,
GARM,
BESTUM,
GYPSUM QUEEN,
STONEPOOL,
EMPIRE
CROSSBILL,
WINTERSWIJK,
MUNERIC,
torpedoed.
EMPIRE
HUDSON,
contd.

My 0002Z/11. (A) U-boat not sighted. No contact obtained. Illuminated starboard side convoy and aircraft dropped flares. (B) unknown. (C) W A C I, N E 3 all positions filled. (D) (DULYSHEH) (as received) number 103.(E)0002Z/11 position 063° 00' N. 038° (?00) (incomplete Group) W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 3 miles, sea slight. My 0212Z/11 (?0210Z/11) (A) Illuminated ahead and on Port side of convoy. KENOGAMI sighted and attacked U-boat Port side. (B) not known. (C) W A C I. N E 3 all positions filled. (D) GARM number 24, BASTUM number 26. (E) 0241? Z/11 in 063° 02' N. 037° 51' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy visibility 3 miles, sea slight. (H) U-boat probably attacked from Port side convoy on surface. My 0332Z/11th. (A) Illuminated starboard side convoy. (B) Starboard side. (C) W A C I, N E 5 position L not occupied. (D) STONEPOOL number 111, GYPSUM QUEEN Number 81. (E) 0328Z/11 in D R 063° 05' N., 037° 50' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200 unregistered 9th. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 3 miles, sea slight. My 0514Z/11. (A) U-boats not sighted. No contact (B) not known (C) W A C I N E 5 position E, L and G vacant. (D) SCANIA number 45, EMPIRE CROSSBILL number 44 (E) 0514Z/11 in D R 063° 14' N. 037° 12' W. (F) Course-degrees 43 since 2200Z/9. (G) Generally cloudy, visibility 2 miles, sea slight. (SKEENA 1802Z/11 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
If available COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX are to be sailed forthwith to reinforce escort of S.C.42. (C. in C. W.A. 1853A/11 to A.C.I.C.)
S.C.42 is still being shadowed. Attack by large numbers of U-boats is expected. (D.D.I.C.1851A/11 to SKEENA, ALBERNI, CAMBLY, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, DOUGLAS, VETERAN, BUTTERMERE. and 2103A/11 to A.L.U.S.N.A.) Note: by D.D.I.C. A.L.U.S.N.A. informed.
My 1434/11 and your 1853A/11 COLUMBIA and SAINT CROIX being sailed at 2100. Trawler escort will be provided for rescue tugs. (A.C.I.C. 1904Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
In an attack by U/B's on convoy S.C.42 ships were torpedoed and probably sunk in the following positions 61° 38' N. 40° 40' W, 62° 50' N, 40° 18' W, 62° 14' N. 39° 39' W, 63° 03' N, 37° 55' W, 63° 14' W, 37° 12' W and 65° 40' N, 35° 50' W. Two ships reported still afloat in 61° 31' N, 40° 51' W. and one in 61° 00' N, 40° 51' W. It is not yet known if all survivors have been rescued. Assistance of any ships in the vicinity would be appreciated. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2200Z/11 to O.P.N.A.V.)

/My 1904Z

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.9.1941. Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Convoy S.C.42 REGIN, VESTLAND, TAHCHEE, SALLY MAERSK, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, BERURY, THISTLEGLEN, SCANIA, BULYSSES, GARM, BESTUM, GYPSUM QUEEN, STONEPOOL, EMPIRE, CROSSBILL, WINTERSWIJK, ? MUNERIC, torpedoed. EMPIRE HUDSON, contd.

My 1904Z. ST. CROIX and COLUMBIA sailed 2135Z. Speed 20 knots. (A.C.I.C. 2205/11.) If possible trawlers should escort tugs. COLUMBIA and ST. CROIX are to proceed independently in accordance with my 1855A/11. (C. in C. W.A. 2105A/11 to A.C.I.C.) S.S. MONTANA of Panama observed by aircraft torpedoed at 1445 in position 63° 40' N. 35° 50' W. Crew took to boats. (A.C.I.C.2315/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

GORLESTON. SUTLEJ GORLESTON reported torpedo fired at her in 014° 05' N. 018° 38' W. at 2002N/10. (C. in C. S.A. 1106N/11 to ENCOUNTER, NESTOR, REPULSE, HIGHLANDER, DERBYSHIRE. Your 2145/10. After arrival report all details whether quite definite torpedo track was seen and how many tracks. (C. in C. S.A. 1151N/11 to GORLESTON.)

MUREFTE. Palestine coast ferry steamer, sunk at 2220/10. (See Mediterranean, 2359C/11, 1040C/12.)

Submarines Reported.

1000A. At 1000A/11 in 071° 30' N. 001° 45' E. passed very marked oil track 150° or 330°. (C.S.1 1037/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C.1421A/11.)

1430 Enemy submarine in 64° 0' N. 34° 54' W. (A/C H/- Sqn. 1430/11.) * course 325 speed 8 knots.

1530. Enemy submarine in 63° 24' N. 36° 38' W. was on surface and was seen to submerge F.369. (A/C H/- Sqn. 1530/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in 52.25 N., 15.50 W. submarine has now submerged. (A/C E., 1058/11 to 15 Group).
Dropped 2 500 lbs. bombs. No definite indication of damage. (H.Q. 15 Group 1248/11.)

By A/C. Enemy S/M in 48.00 N., 10.21 W. Enemy S/M now submerged course 300° 10 knots. (A/C J. 1040/11 to 15 Group.)
S/M previously reported was on course 120° 2 knots. Have attacked with dive bombs estimate near miss either side. (A/C duty E., 1050/11 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy submarine 48° 0' N. 10° 30' W. with level bombs and depth charges estimate 2 hits. (A/C duty J. 1100/11, Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1945/11, 2015/11.)
N. continue to hunt to prudent limit.
(15 Group 1100/11 to A/C E.)

By A/C. Enemy S/M in 52.42 N., 17.34 W. attacked with level bombs, estimate no hits. Enemy S/M now submerged. (A/C duty O. 1115/11 to 15 Group, H.Q.R.S. 15 Group 2045/11.)

By A/C. Have attacked S/M with depth charges in 64° 0' N. 34° 30' W. Hits unknown. (A/C 9 M.P.K. 2030/11.)
My 2030. Enemy was sighted on course 360° speed 12 knots on the surface and observed submerge. (A/C 9 M.P.K. 2216/11.)

By VETERAN LEAMINGTON. U-Boat sighted on surface at 6 miles in 63° (58) N. 35° 15' W. by VETERAN and LEAMINGTON. Attacked with minor results doubtful. (DOUGLAS 2104A/11.)

## Vichy French Warships Sunk or Damaged

| Date | Name | Class | | Diary Ref. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.7.40. | DUNKERQUE | Battle Cruiser | Damaged in action at Oran. | 3/7 | 45 |
| 6.7.40. | " | " | Torpedoed by F.A.A. at Oran | 4/7<br>6/7 | 72<br>131 |
| 3.7.40. | BRETAGNE | Battleship | Blown up in action at Oran | 3/7 | 45 |
| 3.7.40. | PROVENCE | " | Damaged, reported beached, Oran. | 3/7 | 45 |
| 3.7.40. | COMMANDANT TESTE | Aviation Transport | Bombed, on fire escaped, Oran. | 3/7<br>4/7 | 45<br>73 |
| 3.7.40. | MOGADOR | Destroyer | Reported sunk at Oran. | 3/7 | 45 |
| | 1 ship | " | " " | 3/7 | 45 |
| 4.7.40. | | Submarine | Sunk or damaged by DORSETSHIRE off Dakar | 4/7 | 99 |
| 5.7.40. | RIGAULT DE GENOUILLY | Sloop | Sunk by PANDORA, 36.53 N., 03.17 E. | 5/7 | 106 |
| 8.7.40. | RICHELIEU | Battleship | Damaged, D/C attack from M/B and A/C torpedo bomber attack, HERMES at Dakar. | 8/7<br>9/7 | 179<br>203 |
| 23.9.40. | AJAX | Submarine | Sunk off Dakar<br>Operation "Menace"<br>Survivors in BARHAM. | 23/9<br>9/10 | 583<br>193 |
| 23.9.40. | PERSEE | Submarine | Istanbul report lost at Dakar. | 1/10 | 13 |
| 23.9.40. | L'AUDACIEUX | Destroyer | Hit by AUSTRALIA, beached and burnt out at Rufisque. | 23/9<br>12/11 | 583<br>332 |
| 24.9.40. | RICHELIEU | Battleship | Damaged in Operation "Menace", Dakar. | 24/9<br>25/9<br>1/10 | 610<br>637<br>13 |

## Vichy French Warships Sunk or Damaged, Contd.

| Date | Name | Class | | Diary Ref. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.11.40. | PONCELET | Submarine | Attacked by MILFORD, surrendered and scuttled. | 7/11<br>8/11<br>9/11-<br>12/11 | 181<br>206 |
| 13. 6.41. | THEOPHILE GAUTIER | Destroyer | Torpedoed by Swordfish, Juneh Harbour | 13/6 | 396<br>417<br>418 |
| 16. 6.41. | CHEVALIER PAUL | Destroyer | Torpedoed by Naval A/C off Latakia believed sunk | 16/6<br>17/6 | 507<br>538 |
| Night 21-22/6 | | Destroyer | Torpedoed by F.A.A., N. of Beirut, believed sunk. | 23/6 | 684 |
| 22.6.41. | | Destroyer | Hit by R.A.F. believed sunk. | 22/6 | 668 |
| 23.6.41. | | 2 Destroyers | Hit by NAIAD, LEANDER, etc. N. of Beirut. | 23/6 | 687 |
| 25.6.41. | SOUFFLEUR | Submarine | Sunk by PARTHIAN, 33.49 N., 35.26 E. | 25/6 | 719 |
| 5.7.41. | (See also Italian Warships) | U-Boat probably French | Sunk by TORBAY off Meykoni | | |
| Early July 1941 | ADOUR | Naval Tanker | Damaged by aircraft. | | |
| | GLUS | " " | | | |
| | ELAN | Sloop | | | |
| | DJEBEL | Patrol Vessel | | | |
| | SAMIN | " " | | | |
| | JEAN MIC | " " | | | |
| | MASSAHALT | " " | | | |
| | LA VAILLANTE | Trawler | | | |
| | AVOCETTE | Minesweeper | | | |
| | LE CID | " " | | | |
| | MARIUS | Tug | | | |
| | CHAMBON | Tug | | | |
| | MARSEILLAIS III | Tug | | | |

Arrived at Iskanderun from Syria interned. (N.A. Angora, 18/7/41.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Force L sailed from Seidis Fiord at 2000 A today.

SHEFFIELD carrying the flag of C.S.10 sailed from Greenock at 2314A today for Gibraltar.

A Soviet M.T.B. claims to have torpedoed a transport and a destroyer off Petsamo last night.

Force M. Aircraft from VICTORIOUS who is operating with C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE and 3 destroyers early this morning sank a 2,000 ton ship in Bodo Fiord and hit and set on fire the aluminium works and possibly hit the power station in Glom Fiord.

British Air Operations.

Attacks were made last night on Rostock (46 aircraft). Warnemünde (24 aircraft), Kiel (51 aircraft),(where 6 aircraft claim direct hits on the Deutsche Werke Shipbuilding Yard), docks at Le Havre (8 aircraft) and Boulogne (5 aircraft). A Beaufort dive bombed Haugesund Docks early this morning.

Coastal Command Patrols off the Norwegian and Dutch coasts last night claim some successes against shipping.

"Benedict" Force. R.A.F. fighter aircraft commenced to operate in Russia today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy E.C.72 was attacked again from 2000/11 until 0330/12. CORMEAD was damaged and anchored in Yarmouth Roads with a U.X.B. on board. JETBLACK had casualties (apparently from a shell during a low level attack) and her D.G. was put out of action. VIMIERA shot down one aircraft and gunfire from convoy and escorts drove off the majority of the attacks.

Convoy F.N.17 escorted by QUANTOCK was bombed this evening in 52° 49' N., 2° 9' E. No hits are reported.

Mining.

19 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Is., Heligoland and Warnemünde.

Mines were again detonated off Spurn Point today.

South Atlantic.

Eight corvettes from the South Atlantic Station are to be exchanged with eight corvettes fitted with Oropesa sweep from Western Approaches Command.

It is reported from Casablanca dated 11/9, that 3 ships are loading troops and equipment, and also 750 Civilians of unknown nationality.

It is reported from Dakar, dated 10/9 that the French Navy is operating under "Alert" conditions

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

S.S.ISARCO sunk.

Netherlands S/M O.21 reports that at 0120/5 she sank the Italian S.S. ISARCO Bona to Naples, in 40° 12' N., 13° 17' E., laden with 8,000 tons of phosphates. Several other ships were unsuccessfully attacked during a short patrol in this area.

Licata, Ragusa, and Palermo bombed.

2 Fulmars patrolling south of Sicily last night bombed and set fire to a munition factory at Licata and a railway station near Ragusa.

9 Wellingtons attacked merchant vessels and dry dock at Palermo from 0137 to 0410 today; sticks were repeatedly laid across the dry dock with a merchant vessel inside, but smoke screen hindered observations.

Air Attacks on Convoy.

At 0101 today 7 Swordfish attacked a convoy sighted off Kuriat Island southbound at 2250/11. One 6,000 ton merchant ship was torpedoed amidships and believed left sinking and one ship of 8,000 tons is claimed as damaged. At 0215 (or 1215) today 8 Blenheims attacked the convoy still consisting of 6 destroyers with 4 large and 2 medium merchant vessels, but with speed reduced, about 58 miles south of Lampion. One 10,000 ton merchant vessel was hit with two 500 lb. and two 250 lb. bombs and left heavily on fire and is claimed as seriously damaged (later R/C indicated that the ship probably sank) and one 12,000 ton merchant vessel was hit by two 500 lb. bombs and is claimed as damaged. At 2320/12 7 Swordfis again attacked near Zuara with torpedoes; two 6,000 ton merchant ships are claimed as seriously damaged and a third as possibly hit.

Libya and Western Desert.

15 Wellingtons bombed shipping and docks in Benghazi harbour last night.

Tobruk harbour was bombed last night and again today. Only slight damage resulted.

Mersa Matruh was bombed today, causing slight damage.

Egypt and Canal Area.

About 12 aircraft attacked Suez and Port Said last night. Some damage was caused at the refinery and there were some service casualties. A mine is reported in the Canal which is closed at km. 160.6.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

As the result of experience with S.C.42 stronger escorts are to be allotted to S.C. convoys in future.

U-Boat Camapign.

S.C.42. It is estimated that a large number of U-boats are still pursuing Convoy S.C.42 which was in about 64° N., 30° W., at 1500 today.

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Flag of C.S.10.**

Transferred temporarily to SHEFFIELD. (C.S.10 0801A/12 to Adty.)

**AURICULA, VIOLET.**

Propose to detail AURICULA and VIOLET which are both fitted for Minesweeping to escort ERREBUS subsequently joining S.A. Station. If approved, request C. in C. S.A. may be requested to sail 2 Corvettes to U.K. with S.L.87. (C.in C. W.A. 1440A/12 to Adty.)

**Iceland. Provisions in ALAUNIA.**

ALAUNIA is carrying provisions for delivery to Iceland. If possible these provisions should be disembarked and forwarded in D.S.12 to Iceland. (D.O.D.H. 1925A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

**Eight M/S Corvettes for Freetown.**

Eight corvettes from S.A. Station are to be exchanged with eight corvettes fitted with Oropesa Sweep from W.A. Command.
2. C.in C. W.A. is requested to nominate eight corvettes fitted with M/S and for Tropical Service Mark I M/S equipment complete should be embarked.
3. C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. S.A. are requested to sail the corvettes as convoy escorts. Owing to existing S/M threat, the convenience of C.in C. W.A. is of first importance.
4. When the exchange has been effected C.in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for the corvettes fitted M/S to work up as a minesweeping flotilla at Freetown. (A.C.N.S. T. 2122A/12.)

**BRIGAND, ANTWERP, MALINES, PRINCE BAUDOUIN, for Mediterranean.**

Request you will assemble H.M. Ships BRIGAND, ANTWERP, MALINES and S.S. PRINCE BAUDOUIN at Londonderry to be sailed to join the next appropriate O.S. convoy breaking off at Ponta Delgada to fuel, BRIGAND is included to assist by towing if necessary.
2. These ships have been allocated to Mediterranean where they are urgently required.
3. They are to proceed in company but independen of the convoy from Ponta Delgada and C's in C. are requested to arrange for their onward passage and routeing.
4. The following are particulars of vessels. Details. (D.O.D. F. 2133A/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
PRINCE BAUDOUIN deleted, see 2343/16.

/CLAESJE

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

CLAESJE (Dutch M/S Trawler) for Curacoa.

Requested that CLAESJE now at Holyhead and ready for sea on or about 20/9 be sailed in Convoy for Halifax for onward passage to Curacoa.
4. C.in C. A.& W.I. is requested to sail CLAESJE independently from Halifax to Curacoa following as far as possible the American coast line.
5. It is intended that she should be stationed at Curacoa for minesweeping duties under S.N.S.O. Curacoa. (D.O.D. H. 2150A/12.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Murmansk situation.

My 22140/10. Further enemy advances night 11/12 in central sector front where enemy have driven wedge four to five miles in S.E. direction from South end of Zapadnaya Litsa Bay. Enemy hold east short of this bay as far North as Lopatkina Bay 69° 26' N. 32° 25' E. Enemy bringing up reinforcements. S.S. Troops identified but no Finnish troops. Heavy air activity over front today. 8 Enemy A/C destroyed for loss of one Hurricane. "Benedict" force in operation and claim 3. While situation serious, C.in C. confident but would welcome reinforcements. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2231C/12.)

Movements.

ULSTER MONARCH, KOENIGEN EMMA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, PRINCESS BEATRIX, LEINSTER.

For your information following commissioned transports are being used for a voyage commencing from U.K. 16/9. ULSTER MONARCH, KOENIGEN EMMA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and PRINCESS BEATRIX. They will embark in the Clyde on 15/9.
2. LEINSTER will also be used embarking in Liverpool 15/9. (D.S.T. 0207A/12.)

BERWICK.

Scapa departure. (A.C.O.S. 0637/12.)

KENYA.

Arrival C.S.10 in KENYA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0808A/12.)

SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS.

SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS, and destroyers arrived Seidisfiord 0700Z. (A.C.I.C. 1024/12.)

/SHEFFIELD

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

SHEFFIELD. Intend sailing C.S.10 in SHEFFIELD for Gibraltar passing Clyde boom at 2230/12. Route as in C.in C. W.A. 1020A/12. Code word Branch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1144A/12.)
My 1144A/12. Sailed. S. of A. 24 knots. E.T. of passing into N.A. Station 0400/16. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/17. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2314A/12.)

EURYALUS. On completion D G ranging about 0915 tomorrow, EURYALUS is to proceed to Scapa making the passage in daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1515/12 to EURYALUS.)

ANTHONY. Sail at 1100 tomorrow to Scapa. Speed West of Elieness 9 knots, then 25 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1601/12 to ANTHONY.)

EREBUS. EREBUS is urgently required in Eastern Mediterranean. (V.C.N.S. 1721A/12) Note: This signal was cancelled on 14/9.
On completion of practice tomorrow proceed to Clyde. (C. in C. H.F. 2201A/12 to EREBUS.)

U.S.A. Force INDIGO 3. Following received from Opnav. Opnav's assumed position of INDIGO 3 at 0700/12 G.M.T. is 53° 17' N. 34° 47' W. The diversion which the Admiralty has recommended has been ordered. Opnav desires to know if Admiralty considers this diversion still desirable in view of the above data. At 2000/6 G.M.T. INDIGO 3 was ordered to join escort in 42° N. 68° 20' W. Speed 12 knots. (Spenavo 1820/12 to Adty.)

Operations.

Force M. Attack on Shipping in Vest Fiord. Attack carried out. One 2,000 ton ship sunk, 3 ships missed, 2 of which were large and southbound, 3 other small ships in Bodo attacked, result uncertain. Power station in Glom Fiord possibly hit. Aluminium works hit and fires started. All aircraft returned safely.
(C.S.1 0507/12 to C.in C. H.F.)
Shadowed. One He 111 shot down. Intend to repeat attack tonight if unobserved. Request information (I) If any re-disposition of aircraft and (II) inform Russian S/M that destroyers may enter Vest Fiord. (C.S.1 0955A/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

/Your 0955A/12

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force M. Attack on Shipping in West Fiord contd.

Your 0955A/12. It is now too late to inform Russian S/M and this might prejudice security. Ships are to avoid Area within which U.S.S.R. S/M K.One may be met.(Admiralty 1822A/9) (C. in C. H.F. 1353A/12 to C.S.1) (Repeated by C.in C. H.F. 1439A/12.)
My 0955A/12. Still shadowed. Returning. E.T.A. 2000/13. Intend to fly off 832 Squadron to Hatston before arrival. P.C.S. at 1800, 066° 43' N. 000° 55' E. 194°, 20 knots. Request A/S air escort. (C.S.1. 1602Z/12.)

Operation J.R.

Estimated time of reaching line B C 1225. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0827A/12 to 11 Group.)
Cancel J.R. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1127A/12.)

M.T.B's and M.G.B's. Action off Gris Nez. M.G.B.43 and M.T.B.219 damaged.

At 2130 yesterday R.D.F. gave plot of shipping just west of Calais moving west. M.T.B's 38, 218, and 219 on patrol near Varne were sent to intercept. They located 3 armed trawlers close S.W. of Gris Nez at 2230 and fired 4 torpedoes without result. M.G.B. 43 and 46 despatched from Dover in support closed the enemy at 2249 and engaged them for some 20 minutes. M.T.B's 38 and 218 endeavoured to make a second interception without success. Several E/R boats may have been present. All boats report very heavy fire but only M.G.B.43 and M.T.B. 219 slightly damaged. No result of own fire observed but many hits claimed. Casualties 1 officer killed and 2 ratings wounded in M.G.B.43. Wind N.W. 3-4. Sea Moderate. (V.A. Dover 0907A/12.)

Denmark Strait Patrol.

Arrived LONDON 1030. (A.C.I.C. 1043/12.)

Trawlers boarded.

Signal to Admiralty for O.I.C. short report on Trawlers boarded in 50° 55' N. 11° 10' W. at 1310/5/9. (C.in C. W.A. 1139A/12 to FOLKESTONE.)

Convoys "Dervish". Ocean Escorts. LONDON.

My 2133A/9 and your 1724A/11. In view of delay in sailing of "Dervish" convoy intend providing separate ocean escorts for the two convoys.
2. LONDON is detailed for duty in your 1342A/9 para.one (b), and as ocean escort for return of "Dervish" convoy. (C. in C. H.F. 1155A/12.)
My 1724A/11. For DUKE OF SPARTA read GEMSTONE. (D.T.D.1650A/12.)

/Dover

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Dover Patrols. Patrol tonight. 2 M.L's in Dungeness East Roads. 2 Trawlers on O.D.1. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1526A/12 to FERNIE.)

Enemy Destroyer and Transport claimed sunk. Soviet M.T.B. claimed to have torpedoed one transport and one destroyer off Petsamo night 11/12 Sept. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1814C/12.)

Force "L". Sailed from Seidis Fiord 2000A/12. (A.C.I.C. 2320/12.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. HORNLI in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1116/12.) P.R.U. Bergen, Christiansand now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1504/12.)

Bombing operations. On Night 11/12 Sept. 44 A/C attacked Kiel where 6 direct hits on the Deutsche Werke are claimed. Havre, Boulogne, Dieppe, and Cherbourg were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C. 1554/12.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.C.72
CORMEAD (British) 2848 Tons.
JETBLACK (British) 1560 Tons. damaged.

CORMEAD hole in starboard side of waterline and has U.X.B. Am sending her into Yarmouth with SAPPHIRE as escort. Tug not required. (WIDGEON 0003A/12.)
Enemy A/C dropping bombs convoy "Might", position 52° 56' N. 2° 3' E. (VERDUN 0022/12.)
My 0022. Two bombs no hits. (VERDUN 0111/12.)
Enemy A/C bombing convoy. Position 52° 52' N. 2° 7' E. Course 340° 4 knots. (VIMIERA, 0120/12.)
Enemy A/C bombing convoy. Position 52° 56' N. 2° 2' E. Course 302° 4 knots. (VIMIERA 0235/12.)
CORMEAD damaged by bombs anchored in Roads. One U.B. on board. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 0755A/12.)
Aircraft singly and in pairs attacked E.C.72 from 2000/11 until 0330/12. Low level bombing by Junkers and Heinkels. CORMEAD damaged. 4 casualties, 1 fatal, in JETBLACK whose D.G. was put out of action. 1 Aircraft shot down by VIMIERA. Commodore's Balloon carried away by another. Gunfire from convoy and escorts drove off majority of attacks. (VERDUN 0833A/12.)

/Am

MOST SECRET.

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Enemy Air Activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| Convoy E.C.72<br>CORMEAD<br>(British<br>2848 Tons.)<br>JETBLACK<br>(British<br>1560 Tons)<br>damaged.<br>contd. | Am ordering JETBLACK to Humber. E.T.A. H.S Buoy 1245. (VIMIERA 0838/12.)<br>JETBLACK arrived in Humber with damage. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1720/12.)<br>JETBLACK docked Immingham. Apparently hit by shell during air attack at 2020/12 (?11) near Hearty Knoll Buoy. One dead, two wounded landed Grimsby. Degaussing destroyed. Other damage superficial. (F.O. Humber 2131A/12.) |
| A/C off<br>St. Kilda. | Aircraft dropping flares over by me. Position 59° N. 10° W. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0420/12.)<br>Unidentified A/C dropped flares and circled ship for 20 minutes in 059° 57' N. 009° 26' W. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0530A/12.)<br>NORTHERN CHIEF's 0420/12 and 0530/12. CAPE PALLISER reports that at 2150/11 in 059° 57' N. 003° 53' W. she saw 2 sets of 2 White Flares with Gun Flashes and a red glow. She altered to 160° till 2303 when, having seen nothing further, she resumed course to Faeroes. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1612A/12.) |
| Convoy. | Enemy A/C have made bombing attempt position 52° 49' N. 2° 9' E. (QUANTOCK 1953/12.)<br>My 1953. Many bombs. No hits reported. (QUANTOCK 2024/12.) |

Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 Mines off<br>Humber on 11/9. | Your 1939A/26/8. Detonated one Mine at 1915/11 and another at 2100/11. Details. (HOLDERNESS 1250/12.) |
| WINCHESTER. | Sail at 1000/14 to Tyne, speed on passage East of Elieness 20 knots with S.A. Gear working. (C. in C. Rosyth 1325/12 to WINCHESTER.) |
| Spurn Point. | At 0857/12 one mine detonated by LL Trawlers. At 1321 one mine self-detonated. Details. (F.O. Humber 1645A/12.) |

/Forthcoming

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining - contd.

Forthcoming Operations A, B and C. MANXMAN.

1. A.L. M/O.D. 2136/41 of 30th August 1941. The proposed positions are concurred in.
2. R.A.(M) is requested to sail MANXMAN to reach Milford Haven by noon/16 to embark mines and proceed to Plymouth.
3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to allocate a short title and issue the orders for Operation A, on completion of which MANXMAN should be directed to proceed to Portsmouth to embark mines.
4. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to allocate short titles and issue the orders for operations B and C.
5. Supply of mines has been arranged at Milford Haven and Portsmouth. (V.C.N.S. 1647/12.)

Operation S.N.23 B.

Intend to lay as follows with PORT QUEBEC escorted by CASTLETON sailing 2000/15. (R.A.M.1704/12.)
See Operations Volume.

### Enemy Intelligence.

LUTZOW.

Your 2155A/11. Cancel my 1446/11. (N.A. Stockholm 1149/12.)

Kiel.
TIRPITZ.
LUTZOW.
HIPPER.

Photographic R/C of Kiel at 1105A/12 shows TIRPITZ in Strander Bucht. (D.D.I.C. 1718A/12.)
My 1718A/12. Add LUTZOW and HIPPER in Nos. 5 and 6 docks. (D.D.I.C. 2149A/12.)

### Casualties and Defects.

NORDANGER.

Received 0034 G.M.T. S.S. NORDANGER. Compressor Crankrod port motor badly damaged. Proceeding on motor. Suggest calling Bombay repairing same. Estimate whole work take 7 days. (Portishead Radio 0138/12.)

BENWOOD
HARPERLEY
collision.

O.G.M. 74. BENWOOD, HARPERLEY collided. HARPERLEY seaworthy and able to continue passage. Second report deck stringer number 1 (one) hatch many rivets and deck beams started. Poop, crew quarters damaged. Master reports repairs necessary. Require immediate instructions. (RACER 0944A/12.)

SWEET BRIAR (Corvette)

Your 1201/11 and 1856/11. Sailing cancelled. D.G. range reports ship unsafe. I have ordered her to return to Smith's Docks. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough 1550/12.)

/MISCA

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - contd.

MISCA. Admiralty 2346/30/8 sailing of MISCA in O.S.6. Vessel has reported propellor damaged and wire round shaft. Steps are being taken to dock on earliest possible tide, P.M.13th. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1916A/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

NOVELIST. (C.A.M. Ship) in convoy O.N.13 is bound for Jacksonville. Request aircraft be disembarked for servicing when ship calls at Halifax for homeward convoy, replacement aircraft being embarked if delay in sailing would thereby be avoided. (D.T.D. 1713A/12 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

U.S.A. Force. INDIGO 3 N.U. INDIGO 3 N.U. Route to Reykjavik. Use best available speed. (Opnav 1815Z/12 to Adty.)

H.X.148 My 0205Z/10 not to all addressees. H.M.S. RICHMOND with FENNEL in company unable to rejoin H.X. 148. Prudent limit of my endurance reached. Proceeding to Reykjavik. Estimated P.C. and S. at 2000Z/12 056° 58' N. 023° 51' W. (B) 008° 12 knots. (RICHMOND 2305Z/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

**French Convoy.** Passing Gibraltar westbound 1145/12. (D.O.R.14/9).

**L'OBSTINE (French Tug).** Arrival 11th Casablanca presumably to escort remaining barges to Casablanca. (R.O. Oporto 1029E/12)

**Gibraltar broadcast.** Your 0924B/12. My 1007A/12. Difficulties in reading Gibraltar broadcast are due to main transmitter (?Type) 22 C being out of action while being transferred underground. Anticipate this will be in operation commencing 16/9. Do not consider Admty 1602/11 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., should be held up on this account.
(II) Re wave length. (F.O.C.N.A., 1312A/12 to V.A. Malta).

**S/M Suspected.** VIMY reports suspected submarine in 036° 40' 009° 10' at 0555A/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1408A/12 to TRUSTY).

**Supply of Intelligence to Force H.** Action as follows will be taken to supply Intelligence to F.O. Force H.
1. Information concerning disposition of Italian Fleet.
(a) C.O.I.S. Alexandria to keep Force H informed as necessary by signal.
(b) V.A. Malta to signal all R/C reports of major warships (Cruisers and above) to Force H.
2. Political and economic situation in France, Italy and Iberian Peninsular.
3. Enemy morale.
4. Location of Enemy Air Forces in the area involved.
Admiralty (D.N.I.) to be responsible for items 2, 3 and 4. This will be forwarded by air mail.
5. Immediate Reports of Results obtained of attacks by Naval or Air Forces on Italian Naval Forces, Harbours or Air Bases in the area.
C. in C. Med., and V.A. Malta to repeat all signals dealing with such attacks to Force H.
6. Strength of Air Forces, and Conditions of Aerodromes in Malta.
This is under discussion with the Air Ministry and a further signal will be made.
7. Docks and Dockyard facilities available in Malta.
V.A. Malta to signal this information.
8. Disposition of our own Naval Forces.
This question is under consideration but location of our own forces which may affect the operation will be signalled by Admiralty.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1521/12 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H., C.O.I.S. Alexandria.)

/Fuelling.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Fuelling. Your 1945/11 after delay caused by number of departments involved permission has now been granted providing not more than 3 ships are in port at the same time.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 1639/12 to Admty).

TRUSTY. My 1310A/11 Escort is Trawler ARCTIC RANGER.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1808A/12 to TRUSTY).

BRITISH FREEDOM. My 0932A/11. BRITISH FREEDOM due 13th in company with INVERLEE and escorts.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2214A/12).

South Atlantic.

REVENGE. Admty 1159/9 and your 1310/1. Repairs to REVENGE will require 14 days including 10 days in dock, ship can be taken in hand at Durban 28/9.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0942Z/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

Spanish Schooners. The following is repeated for information addressed Admty., C. in C. S.A. from Consul.
Auxiliary engined Spanish Schooner MARIA BOMARI seen off Vermelharia San Nicolau Island A.M./11 and readjusted course for Sal Island. Was seen 11th P.M. en route Sal. Deck was packed with drums and cases Spanish flag painted on side of vessel.
(Consul St. Vincent, 0952/12).

TAI YANG. Overdue Shipping. TAI YANG due Capetown 7/9 from New York not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1010B/12).

MERCHANT ROYAL. Steer immediately for new position P., bearing 079° 180 miles from Y then direct to destination.
(C. in C. S.A., 1250/12 to MERCHANT ROYAL).

/Suspicious.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

**Suspicious Tanker.** The sighting of a (?moored) tanker (?discarding) (?steam) has been reported by LONE STAR. May be supply ship. Position 025° 53' S., 004° 19' W. Time P.M./25/8. Ship appeared suspicious as she burnt 2 white flares and later showed 1 red light high (?up) amidships no reply was received to LONE STAR lamp signals at a short range. About 315° was tankers course when last seen.
(C. in C. S.A., 1409N/12 to S.A. Stn).

**French Ships.** Report graded A.1. that French sloop D'IBERVILLE arrived Tamatave escorting VILLE DE VERDUN and PIERRE L.D. on 31/8 from Dakar.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1423B/12).

**HIGHLANDER.** Admty 2358A/7. Intend leaving Bathurst 1600N/12 calling at Gibraltar for fuel. E.T.A. 0900A/16. Intended route 100 miles West of Dakar and inside Canary Islands. HIGHLANDER oiled at Ponta Delgada 5/9. (HIGHLANDER, 1430Z/12).

**Vichy French Intelligence.** Naval. (ii) Casablanca 11/9. A.one.
OREGON and CALEDONIE are embarking 3250 troops believed to be Colonial Infantry or Foreign Legion and 750 civilians of unknown nationality. Also loading are 50 armoured cars with machine guns in turrets, army trucks and munitions.
A 3rd ship name unknown is loading men and material including bombs which are being transferre from 22 railway trucks just arrived from Algiers.
Repeated S.O.(I) Freetown and S.O.(I) Gibraltar.
(iii) Dakar 10/9. A.one.
Navy now operating under "Alert" conditions.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1915R/12).

**Cruisers, scarcity.** Remarks on Admty 0001/8. (C. in C. S.A., 2353N/12)
See Operations Volume.

/O.S.4.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

O.S.4 positions 4, 5 and 6/9.

Your 0221N/11 P.C.& S. of Commodore O.S. 4 were:-
4th 0900Z 36.07 26.20 157 7½ 2100Z 34.45 25.32 126 7½.
5th 0900Z 33.22 24.13 153 7½ 2100Z 31.32 23.11 180 7½.
6th 0900Z 29.54,22.34 153 7½ 2100Z 28.22 21.46 180 7½.
Speeds are ordered speeds, but as will be seen as much as 10 knots was made good at times. Admty., 1727A/6, 1728A/6 and 1233A/11 were not received in GORLESTON until arrival Bathurst due to unreliable W/T reception. Investigation not complete but these were overlooked by Consort when checked. B.N. message on day in question. F.O.C.N.A.'s emergency 0704/6 and 1204A/6 indicate state of local enemy activity undefined and in consequence GORLESTON and other escort, one at a time, were at various times on 4th, 5th and 6th searching as far as 40 miles from convoy. The following signal originated by GORLESTON (copies forwarded where necessary) gives indication of convoy air operations at time in question 1345Z/4 not to C. in C. South Atlantic 0830Z/5 ditto 1200Z/7. Estimated positions from situation report bore from true position at time indicated as follows. 4th 0900Z 114 miles 353° 2100Z 150 miles 334°.
5th 0900Z 190 miles 318° 2100Z 257 miles 318°.
6th 0900Z 283 miles 317° 2100Z 235 miles 269°.
-Last sentence your signal taken to mean forward track chart upon return to Londonderry.
(GORLESTON, 2359N/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

### Mediterranean.

W/T Communication with Gib.

Attempts by Malta W/T Station to read Gibraltar broadcast during past 24 hours have been most unsatisfactory. (V.A. Malta, 0924B/12).

R/C of Messina.

My 2253B/11. 8 inch cruisers are BOLZANO and probably GORIZIA former still surrounded by lighters. (V.A. Malta, 0934B/12).

/Air.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean. - Contd.

**Air attack on Suez.** Night 11/12 Sept. 13 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Suez. No damage reported to shipping or Military installations.

**Air attack on Benghazi.** Night 10/11 Sept. 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour causing an explosion and small fires. 2 Blenheims on offensive sweep of area 80 miles north of Benghazi located no enemy shipping. 1 of them bombed Derna on return journey.

**Bombs near Acre.** Night 10/11 Sept. A single unidentified enemy aircraft dropped bombs south east of Acre. No damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.0957/12).

**MUREFTE.** Enemy submarine sank MUREFTE at 2220/10 on passage to Iskanderun. D.S.T.O.Port Said to report details of cargo to N.A. Angora repeated C. in C. Med., and G.H.Q.M.E. (C. in C. Med., 1040C/12 to N.A. Angora).

**Enemy operations.** Memorandum S.O. 33 para 3. Indications are that contemplated naval operations may take place near future during daylight and that 6 inch cruisers may also take part. Attention is keenly drawn to general description of equipment of these ships in Jane's Fighting ships. Extensive air and surface A/S measures prior to operations. My 0937C/8 Tanker adheres to same route and time but date is 14th. (Capt. S., Med., 1138/12 to THUNDERBOLT).

**Salvage Vessels.** Reply to C. in C. Med., 1710C/6. (Admty 1204A/12) See Operations Volume.

Re. C.A.F.O. 587.
(b) High level attack on Suez 0253/12 to 0534/12 by 12 enemy aircraft.
(c) H.E., incendiaries, mines.
(d) 30 H.E. some U.X.B.1 parachute mines in channel k.m. 160.6.
(e) Service damage nil civil damage considerable.
(k) Canal closed at point km. 160.6 one bomb on Port Said no casualties or damage.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1305C/12).

**ISARCO sunk.** (A.) S/M O.21 reports:-
(1) Italian S.S. ISARCO sunk in 040° 12' 013° 17' at 0120 5th. (2) Laden with 8,000 tons phosphates. (3) From Bona to Naples. Two consecutive voyages (4) Master and 21 of crew picked up.
(B) Unsuccessful attack on Marcello Class S/M 31/8 in038° 54' 010° 38' course 70°.

/(C).....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

ISARCO sunk. - Contd.

(C) Unsuccessful attack on two ships escorted by A.M.C. on the 6th in 041° 07' 010° 04' course 210°.
(D) Unsuccessful attack on Italian Minelayer FASANA Class on 7th in 041° 12' 009° 49' course 230° Torpedo ran under.
(E) One 7,000 ton ship escorted by A.M.C. sighted 8/9 in 039° 09' 009° 42' course 220°.
(F) Unsuccessful attack on convoy two large merchant vessels one tanker and one A.M.C. on the 8th in 038° 52' 009° 53' 165°.
(G) The number of targets sighted during this short patrol again emphasizes the value of this area for offensive action. (F.O.C.N.A., 1340A/12).

Malta air raid. Photo R/C Palermo, Messina, Taranto.

Malta. Night 11/12. Four raiders over A.A. engaged several barrages. No Hurricanes up. Bombs on land no damage or casualties.
11/9. Photos Palermo. 2 Cruisers 4 T.B.s 5 large M.Vs 1 in dock 2 medium M/Vs 1 Tanker. Much oil pouring from 1 M/V 10,000 tons stretching across to Naval basin. Probably result Wellingtons attack 8/9. Messina. 3 Cruisers 4 submarines 8 small M/Vs appear dispersed four miles North of Harbour. Swordfish on shipping sweep found convoy disposition and number unknown off Kuriat Island southbound 2250 hours. 12/9. 0900 hours. Southbound convoy 6 M/Vs 6 Destroyers off Kerkenah. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1810/12).

R/C Taranto, Palermo.

(V.A. Malta, 1816A/12 amended 1606/15).

Air Operations.

A.M.11/9 2 Blenheims failed locate medium M/V southbound off Kerkenah. 2 Fulmars patrolled south Sicily 2300/11 to 0330/12 in bad weather. Dropped 2 small bombs and 2 incendiaries Licata Munition Factory starting fire and clouds white smoke also machine gunned harbour installations. 2 small bombs and 2 incendiaries on railway station near Ragusa starting large fire. 7 Swordfish attacked convoy found by Swordfish (see part 2.) 1 torpedo hit 6,000 ton M/V amidships. Ship left sinking (GM?) 1 hit 8,000 ton M/V causing cloud of smoke and steam claimed damaged. One torpedo exploded in wake of 5,000 ton M/V no results seen from other 2 torpedoes. 9 Wellingtons attacked M/Vs and dry dock Palermo in 3 waves 36,000 lbs bombs from 6,000 feet. 0137 to 0410/12, sticks repeatedly laid across dry dock with M/V inside. Red glow seen in target area and small fire south part of harbour. Smoke screen hindered observation. (H.Q. Malta, 2012/12).

/8 Blenheims....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

**Air Operations. Contd.**

8 Blenheims 105 Squadron 1215 hours attacked Southbound Convoy 6 Destroyers 4 large 2 medium M/Vs previously attacked by Swordfish approx. 58 miles South of Lampion. 2 Hits with 500 lbs. 2 hits with 250 lb. bombs 1 large M/V left mass of flames from amidships to stern fire and smoke seen 40 miles away. Another large M/V 2 hits with 500 lb. bombs. One ship claimed seriously damaged second ship claimed damaged. 3 Blenheims missing. All were shot down by intense barrage of A.A. Crew of one seen in Dinghy 12 miles away from Convoy. (H.Q. Malta, 2015/12).

**Situation Report 146.**

My 2359/11 para 3. 6 destroyers and aircraft carrying out A/S search. Survivors from MUREFTE (?store carrier) have reached Beirut in S.S. TALODI. (C. in C. Med., 2148C/12, to Admty).

### East Indies.

**Base Defences.**

Ref. A.M.1329/23. As a result of R/C by M.N.B.D.O. the following assistance is requested from India. To be ready for shipment at Bombay 27/9 or as soon after as possible.
(C. in C, E.I., 1812/12 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

**GLENROY.**

C. in C. E.I., 1814Z/12. See Operations Volume.

### China.

**Repatriation of Annamites.**

Admty 1929/11. Decoux has agreed and arrangements can be made to repatriate 200 Annamites if sent Singapore in ship leaving South Africa 20/9.
(C. in C. China, 0217Z/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PASTEUR. A.M.1622A/10.
1. Organisation given in my 1807Z/9 requires all R.C.N. Destroyers in N.E.F. for S.C. and ON.S. escort duties.
2. Propose however to make ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY available for PASTEUR. This will postpone refit of ASSINIBOINE and weaken group 17 but can be accepted since group 17 will on first East bound convoy S.C.48 be augmented by an R.N Destroyer and as at present constituted includes two R.C.N. Destroyers.
3. ST. LAURENT also appears to be available but I do not recommend using her because although group 14 could be augmented by one R.N. Destroyer on Eastern passage with S.C.45 there would be no Destroyer with this group on return passage.
(C.C.N.F., 0059Z/12).

PRINCE HENRY. Will be required to transport reinforcement for British Battalion to Dutch W.I. from Jamaica on 19/9. On completion PRINCE HENRY will proceed to Bermuda.
N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica requested to issue necessary instructions. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/12 to PRINCE HENRY).

TULIP, CLARKIA. Your 0932Q/8. Ships will sail P.M./18 reporting E.T.A. Bermuda to you before sailing.
(B.A.R.M., Washington 0948R/12).

A.M.C. for Iceland (C) Following is a repetition of my 1456P/11 begins:
In view of A.M. 1709A/6 and diversion to Clyde of ALAUNIA carrying provisions for Iceland should an A.M.C. be sailed with next appropriate H.X. Convoy to proceed to Reykjavik with provisions in replacement T.O.O. 1456P/11. Ends.
(R.A.3 B.S. 1031P/12).
Your 1456/11. It is not necessary to sail another A.M.C. to Iceland with provisions.
(D.O.D. (H) 1932A/12 to R.A. 3 etc).

Convoy Escorts. Request reply my 1424A/10 observing your 0059Z/12 only refers PASTEUR. (C. in C. W.A., 1125A/12 to C.C.N.F.)

LIMOUSIN (French). St. Thomas ? arrival. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1146R/12.

/MEROPE.....

War Diary. 12.9.1941. Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

MEROPE. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 0145Z/30/8. Tampico Dep. 7/9 French Tanker MEROPE for Puerto Mexico first voyage of three months time charter Gulf Ports Cuba in Mexican interests. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1151R/12).

CHEVREUIL. Your 1212Q/28. French Ship CHEVREUIL arrived Kingston intended to depart 20/9 and transit Panama Canal 22/9. Request Admiralty inform A.C.F.N.F.L. and French High Commissioner in LE TRIOMPHANT. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1245R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DIANTHUS. Your 1550R/11. DIANTHUS will be delayed until she and GLADIOLUS can arrive U.K. in company. Owing to recent re-routeing of convoys date on which GLADIOLUS can arrive is now uncertain. Further signal will be made. (C.C.N.F., 1306Z/12 to B.A.R.M)

MEKONG, BEARN. CINCLANT, Comdr. Carib Nav. Coastal Frontier, COMTASK Force 3 for information. French Naval Tanker MEKONG leaves Fort De France for Gaudeloupe 12/9. Will disembark Governor Sorin at Basseterre and then will stay at Pointe Apitre and Aux Saintes until 23/9 when will return Martinique. On 13/9 Carrier BEARN will leave for St. Pierre, will take part in festivities of 14/9 until 17/9 and return Fort De France. (U.S. Govt. Washington, 1325Z/12 to Admty).

S/M refits. FORTH. Your 1138A/10. Arrangements for submarines to work up in U.S.A. after refit will probably be approved. If so, advisable for FORTH to visit ports concerned to land ratings and gear as follows. (B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 to Admty).

S. C. Convoys. Stronger escorts required. (Admty 1638A/12) See Operations Volume.

S.C.45. Admty 1638/12 passed to you for necessary action report escorts detailed for S.C.45. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2214Z/12 to C.C.N.F.)

/Task.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.9.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Task Force 2. | Intended movements. (Opnav, 1758Z/12). |
| S.S. FORBIN (Free French). | Refitting at Norfolk. Crew not allowed ashore until British declare vessel a naval auxiliary. Asking Min. of Transport to hasten decision. Suggest Free French M.V.s be either declared naval auxiliary before arrival in U.S.A. to refit or not be sent to refit in U.S.A. (B.A.D. Washington 1837B/12). |
| Vichy French Intelligence. | B.A.D. Washington 1915R/12. See South Atlantic. |
| T.C. and C.T. Convoy escorts. | Your 1424A/10 to C.C.N.F. Regret no Canadian destroyers available for T.C. or C.T. convoys other than those allotted to S.C. convoys. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2207Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.) |

Australia.

| | |
|---|---|
| AKAROA. | Have you any news of AKAROA from Balboa due 3/9. (D.T.D., 1321A/12 to N.C.S.O. Auckland). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.9.41.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42. Add to my 2200Z/11 Para. 1 Panamanian S.S.MONTANA observed by aircraft torpedoed in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W., at 1305/11. Crew took to boats.
(D.D.O.D.(H) 0401A/12, to OPNAV.)

Attack on S.C.42. My 1904/11. Sailed tugs RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER for Tortola ships escorted by WASTWATER and SEALYHAM at 0703Z/12.
(A.C.I.C. 0705Z/12 to C. in C.W.A.)
Unless in contact with U boat destroyers of Second group are to proceed with dispatch to Iceland at daylight/13 to fuel subsequently rejoining convoy as soon as possible and escorting to U.K. corvettes in company are to remain with convoy till further orders.
(C. in C.W.A. 1509A/12 to DOUGLAS, SKEENA.)
SKEENA rejoin S.C.42 when fuelled. DOUGLAS detail two corvettes most in need of fuel to proceed at daylight at best speed to Iceland rejoining convoy. When rejoined further two may be detached to refuel as necessary. SKEENA and Corvettes will be relieved by corvettes of 4th escort group in about 13° W.P.M. 16/9.
(C. in C.W.A. 2220A/12 to SKEENA, ALBERNICOFT, KENOGAMIX, GLADIOLUS, MIMOSA, DOUGLAS, WESTWISKIN, CHAMBLY, MOOSEJAW.)

GORLESTON. My 2331N/11. (N.T.in W.D.). For 2002N/11 read 2052N/10.
(C. in C.S.A. 1056N/12 to Adty.)

TREMODA SAUGOR. (torpedoed 27/8.) CHEVREUIL arrived Kingston 12/9 with survivors of S.S.TREMODA and S.S.SAUGOR torpedoed in 053.42 N., 15.43 W., on 27/8. No information available. List of survivors follows.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1533R/12, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.9.41.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2101Z/11 & 2120Z/11. D/F bearings at 2101Z/11 and at 2120Z/11, indicate U-boats to the Northward of Cape San Roque, possibly between 0° and 5° N., and 35° - 40° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0252A/12 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D., C. in C.A.W.I., O.P.N.A.V.)

2018Z/11. D/F Bearings at 2018Z/11, indicate a unit probably a U-Boat in approx., 12° - 13° N., 32° - 34° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0316A/12 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.A.W.I. F.O.C.N.A.)

0555. Suspected submarine in 036° 40' N., 009° 10' W. (VIMY 0555/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1509A/12.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Enemy S/M attacked in 64°14' N., 31° 10' W., with depth charges result unknown. Submarine observed to submerge.
(? A/C 9 L.U. 0400/12.)

By VIMY. My 0846. S/M contact in 036° 46' N., 009° (?30') W., good attack. Full pattern.
No evidence am proceeding.
(VIMY 1215/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By SIDMOUTH. SIDMOUTH reported attacking submerged submarine at 1450 in 051° 31' N., 005° 13' W. BLACK SWAN 2 A/S Trawlers and 4 motor launches joined search. BLACK SWAN reports attacking stationary contact 051° 31' 40" N., 005° 12' W., with 10 well placed D.Cs., and no visible result. BLACK SWAN and 2 A/S trawlers remaining over position contact which may be a wreck.
(N.O.I/C. Milford Haven 1830A/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

Force M. C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE, with SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, and 3 Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1845 today from the operation yesterday at Vest Fiord and Bodo.

It is reported today from Stockholm that the ADMIRAL SCHEER is damaged and left Oslo in tow on Wednesday last.

Adty. have asked for information as to the military situation in the Murmansk area from S.B.N.O. Murmansk, who reported at 22510 today that no change had occurred upon that front since his 22310/12. A/C of the R.A.F. have been in action there.

The Soviet naval authorities report that the Germans attempted to land in force on Oesel Island today and were beaten off, four transports and a destroyer being sunk.

### British Air Activity.

The docks at Cherbourg, and St Nazaire were attacked last night.

It is reported today that during daylight yesterday one 3000 ton M/V was sunk and one 2000 ton M/V severely damaged by our A/C off Katwijk.

### Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N. 17 was bombed at intervals off the Norfolk coast from 1950 until 2020 last night without suffering any damage or casualty. Convoy W.N. 79 was attacked off Montrose at 2021 today; no damage has been reported.

Collier S.S. BLOOMFIELD was attacked and damaged about 0800A today by 2 aircraft about 30 miles esst of Thorshavn whilst on passage from Kirkwall to Faeroes. Ship was abandoned, and subsequent search failed to find her, it is presumed she sank.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

8 Aircraft last night laid mines off the Frisian Islands and other positions in North Germany and Denmark.

There was some minelaying activity by A/C in the Thames Estuary last nightwhere A/C were seen and a Mine exploded in the air at 2048 over the North Shingles Shoal. One S.A. Mine was detonated by Trawler at 0010 today off B7. Buoy.

The channel through the Nymph Bank Minefield was finally searched by this morning with no results, and the sweeping vessel returned at 0821 A to Milford Haven.

4 Mines were detonated by Sweepers today off the Humber.

Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Operation "Status II". | 45 Hurricanes and 7 Blenheims flown off from ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS arrived at Malta today. |
| 0.24. | 0.24 reports that she has sunk by gunfire a barque of 1,200 tons and torpedoed a 6,000 ton laden merchant vessel which was last seen with a heavy list and sinking. |
| Air Attack on Convoy renewed. | At 0140 today 7 Wellingtons attacked the Tripoli convoy which was attacked yesterday twice by Swordfish and once by Blenheims. The convoy now consisted of only 8 or 9 ships in place of the original 13. One 10,000 merchant ship was hit 4 times and set well on fire; one 12,000 ton merchant ship was hit, causing a large fire in the hold; 2 medium merchant ships were each hit twice; and one small ship received a hit. |

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

It is reported that 100 bombs and 6 mines were dropped in an air raid on Tobruk from 0300 to 0530 today. Small military damage was caused, Mersa Matruh was also attacked but no damage is reported.

Syria.

The final Vichy Troop repatriation Convoy B.1. left Beirut today. Admiral Gouton and the remainder of the Vichy French naval personnel were on board.

East Indies.

Operation "Snip".

Force T., MAURITIUS, HAWKINS, and ANTENOR will be known as Force W for this operation.

China.

Additional areas in the western approaches to Singapore were today declared closed to shipping by mines.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand

At 0800Z/11 SS SILVERPLANA reported a suspicious vessel in 26° 16' S., 164° 25' W. The message was cancelled in plain language at 1055Z/11, but there was doubt about the authenticity of the cancellation. At 2225Z/11 SILVERPLANA was instructed to break W/T silence and cancel her distress message in code. Nothing further has been heard.

SS DEVON, which left Panama on 15/8 is now 4 days overdue at Aukland.

An area dangerous from British mines is declared in the western approaches to Torres Strait.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

EREBUS. — Your 1721A/12. Estimate EREBUS cannot arrive Alexandria before late December. Ship is not fitted for hot weather in any way. Original complement of 250 has been increased to 400 borne. Certain guns are due for replacement shortly. Proposals.
(R.A.D., 1245A/13 to Admty.)

ONSLOW. ORIBI. — When ready for service ONSLOW will join the Home Fleet as leader of the 17th Flotilla of O class destroyers.
2. ORIBI now serving in the 19th Flotilla will join the 17th Flotilla when ONSLOW is worked up.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1247/13.)

WESTCOTT. — Request WESTCOTT may be made available for HEDGEHOG trials at first convenient date after 21/9. Two days will be required for fitting out and a subsequent period of about 14 days for trials.
(D.A/S.W., 1546A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

AURICULA. VIOLET. — Your 1440A/12. Approved.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1615A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/S Corvettes for S.A. Station. — Admiralty 2122A/12. Intend following M/S Corvettes to join C. in C. S.A.
(A) VIOLET, AURICULA sailing 18/9.
(B) WALLFLOWER, NIGELLA sailing 25/9.
(C) FREESIA, ORCHIS, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK sailing 15/10.
2. AURICULA, HOLLYHOCK, ORCHIS are fitted type 271.
(C. in C. W.A., 1615A/13.)

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

North Atlantic Trade Convoy Escorts. — Beginning with H.X.150 leaving Halifax 16/9, U.S.A. will assume responsibility as follows. Details.
(V.C.N.S., 1145A/13.) See Operations Volume.
Adty. 1145A/13. Following are communication arrangements.
(V.C.N.S. 1150A/13.) See Operations Volume.

/Opnav.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A. - Contd.

Opnav reports:-
Change in W.P.L.51: Delete task 7 cast. Renumber task 7 dog to 7 cast. This change sent to all holders of W.P.L.51.
(Spenavo, 1520/13 to Admty.)
Following from Opnav. To obtain complete flexibility the President has modified instructions given previously with regard to escort and convoy. U.S. Flag Vessels may be escorted by Canadian Ships, and American Warships may now escort convoys in which there are no U.S. or Iceland Flag Vessels. Later instructions will be given to modify W.P.L.51 accordingly.
(Spenavo, 1855/13 to Adty.)

A/C in Iceland.

Request you will ascertain whether U.S. Authorities intend to base flying boats in Iceland during the winter.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1234A/13 to A.C.I.C.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Convoys PQ and QP.

Convoys between U.K. and North Russia will in future be given Serial Numbers as follows. Details.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1230A/13.)
See Operations Volume.

Mission to Russia.

A.M. 1342A/9 para. 1 B, A.M. 1917A/9, and your 1110A/11.
Now anticipated that departure of this mission will be delayed. Ship should be at 36 hours notice from 16/9.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1307A/13.)

Murmansk Area.

Request the following information -
A. Numbers and identity of division in Murmansk area.
B. Particulars of any other troops.
C. What reinforcements are available, where they are coming from, and their identity.
D. When these reinforcements are likely to arrive.
(D.N.I., 1725A/13 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

/At.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with Russia.

**Murmansk Area. Contd.**

At todays meeting Panfilov confirmed presence of S.S. Division in addition to second and third German Mountain Divisions in attack in Murmansk sector. Panfilov stressed difficulty of ground and gave much more optimistic picture than you are getting from our S.N.O.
(No. 30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 2250/13 to War Office.)
To D.M.I. for Macfarlane.
R.A.F. at Murmansk having been in action the following communique is being issued to British Press here release simultaneously with Russians at 0930 hours Moscow time tomorrow 14th. "A wing of the R.A.F. has arrived in Russia". This was the wording suggested by Chiefs of Staff. Please inform Ministry of Information.
(No. 30 Mil. Mission, Moscow, 2250/13 to War Office.)
My 2231C/12. Murmansk front no change.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2251C/13 to Admty.)

### Movements.

**DEWDALE. ENNERDALE.**

R.F.A's. Sailed in accordance with Admty. 1433A/10 para.(iv)
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0304A/13.)

**MINERVE.**

When ready about 15/9 MINERVE is to be sailed for A patrol in zone C 3 and C 4.
(F.O.S., 1021A/13.)
My 1021A/13. In view of suspect enemy minelaying to eastward of QZX 395, MINERVE is to be routed as follows.
(F.O.S. 1839A/13 and 2136A/13.)

**U.S.A. Force "Indigo 3."**

Opnav's 1820/12. Pending further information consider diversions should be maintained for the present.
(D.T.D. 1025A/13 to Spenavo.)

**P.34**

Intend to sail P.34 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 0800A/16. E.T.A. 2200A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1154A/13.)

**WINCHELSEA.**

My 2243A/12 and 0019A/13. On completion of escort WINCHELSEA is to proceed to Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1552A/13.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Eastern Channel Patrol. | 4 A/S Trawlers on patrol between Portsmouth and Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/13.) |
| Operation J.R. (ATHERSTONE) | Propose to convert from day to night operation as from Night 15/16. Reasons. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1553A/13.) See Operations Volume. |
| Dover Patrol. | Three M.T.B's at 1830 and two M.G.B's at 1900 leave Dover to patrol near C 2 and C 1 buoys respectively, returning to Dover after 0100/14. (V.A. Dover, 1631A/13.) |
| Force M. | Scapa arrivals C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with SUFFOLK, VICTORIOUS, SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI. (A.C.O.S., 1845/13.) |

### British Air Activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| Patrols. | HORNLI in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1416/13.) P.R.U. Kristiansand South in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1444/13.) |
| One 3000-Ton M/V claimed sunk and one 2000-Ton M/V damaged. | On 12/9 off Katwijk two A/C attacked a 3000 ton M/V. Each scored a direct hit. The ship was left listing to port and is claimed as a total loss. Two further Blenheims attacked a 2000 ton M/V and the ship is claimed as severely damaged. |
| Cherbourg bombed. | During Night 12/13, sixteen A/C attacked the Docks at Cherbourg, starting fires. (H.Q.B.C., 1654/13.) |
| Nore Command. Night Fighters. | Your 1012/5/4. Request confirmation that Night Fighters may operate above 3000 feet in the Estuary East only of a line Warden Point - Shoeburyness and South of Walton on the Naze. May this area be extended Northwards to cover the Harwich Area. (H.Q.F.C., 1755/13 to C. in C. Nore.) |
| A/S Patrol CAST. | My 2330/11/6. Add A/S Patrol CAST as follows. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 2136/13.) See Summaries Folder. |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship. — Automatic A.A.A.A. signal heard at 0343 G.M.T. bearing 012° strength 5 from this station. (North Foreland Radio, 0448/13.)

Convoy F.N.17 bombed. — Convoy bombed from 1950/12 to 2020/12 in 052° 49' N. 002° 09' E. At least five enemy aircraft. Eight separate attacks by individual aircraft. Six attacks 2000 feet, two low level. Many bombs, no damage or casualties to any ship. (WHADDON, 0810A/13.)
My 0810A/13. HARROGATE, rear ship in convoy, reports seeing plane crash astern. This was not witnessed by either of rear escorts. SHELDRAKE reports that one A/C jettisoned bombs one mile away on her starboard side. (WHADDON, 0907A/13.)

Convoy W.N.79 bombed. — Enemy A/C are bombing convoy "Might", whose position is 56° 44' N. 2° 2' W. (CURACOA, 2021/13.)

BLOOMFIELD. — Complete crew landed at Klaxvik at 2100A/13th by Faeroes fishing ship. Report ship attacked by 2 aircraft at 0800A/13th about 30 miles east of Thorshavn. Ships abandoned sinking at 1530A/13th 1 man wounded. (N.O.i/c Faeroes, 2226A/13.)

### Mining.

Thames Estuary. — 1 S.A. mine detonated by S.A. Trawler at 0010/13. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 0806/13.)
Between 2046 and 2055/12, plots showed enemy planes over Knob Channel and South Edinburgh Channel. At 2048 a mine exploded prematurely in mid air over North Shingles Shoal.
Between 2025 and 2055 GOLDEN EAGLE engaged six targets in Edinburgh Channels area. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1313/13.)

Operation "Tincture" — Your 1207A/10. Vessel returned. Operation completed. Negative result. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0821A/13.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET

13.9.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation H.F. — Your 1647A/12. Short title for operation A is H.F.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1026/13.)

Portsmouth H.D.A. Unit. — Request MAY be sailed for Portsmouth to lay H.D.A. unit in that area provided vessel has no immediate commitment at Portland. MAY is to return to Portland on completion of laying unit.
(D.A/S.W., 1245A/13 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Spurn Point. — The following four mines were detonated by Sweepers today. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1815A/13.)

QZX 395. — Enemy minelaying suspected to Eastward of QZX 395.
(F.O.S. 1839A/13.)

Enemy Intelligence.

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Damaged. Left Oslo in tow 10/9. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1837/13.)

Casualties and Defects.

VENOMOUS — Arrived with defects.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0745A/13.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE. — Intended to sail SOUTHERN PRINCE 1900A/16 to arrive Barry Roads 0530A/18. Escort WOOLSTON and 2 trawlers as SOUTHERN PRINCE is unable to anchor N.O.i/c Liverpool, is requested to sail one tug to arrive Belfast by 1800A/16 to accompany SOUTHERN PRINCE on passage.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0921A/13.)
Belfast's 0921A/13. Intend sailing Tug AMSTERDAM from Holyhead to arrive Belfast 1800/16 for duty with SOUTHERN PRINCE to Barry Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2109/13.)

COWSLIP. M.M.S.50. — Arrived COWSLIP with defects. M.M.S.50 with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0950A/13.)

/SWEET BRIAR.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| SWEET BRIAR. | My 1550/12. Degaussing now satisfactory. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough, 1040/13.) |
| SUNFLOWER. SABRE. NORTHERN DAWN. | SUNFLOWER returning to harbour defective plummer block escorting straggler. SABRE has contaminated fuel and can only stay course on one Boiler. NORTHERN DAWN has defective W/T and has dropped astern. (KEPPEL, 1230Z/13.) |
| NORTHERN PRINCESS. | My 2115A/12. Delayed with Dynamo defect. (F.O. Humber, 1345A/13.) |
| DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY (Paddle Minesweeper) | Tug DIVERSION left Harbour 1355 and returned 1530. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER left Harbour 1515 and returned 1530. Both to assistance of DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY with defective steering gear. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1601A/13.) |
| SYLVIA DE LARRINAGA. | My 0941A/12. Returned with defects. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 2130A/13.) |
| SACONY VIII. | Tug BASCOBEL arrived Reykjavik. Left Sydney C.B. 30/8 with SACONY VIII (? in tow) with S (?C) 42. SACONY slipped tow at (?20)00/3 in approx. 300 miles N.E. Belle Isle due to heavy weather. BASCOBEL searched all night but could not locate ship. After daylight BASCOBEL proceeded independently to Iceland. (A.C.I.C. 2225/13.) |

Shipping and Convoys.

| | |
|---|---|
| Convoy I.3. | Information received that U.S. Convoy I.3 has been diverted through the following positions:- S. 56° N. 27° W. T. 63° N. 19° 30' W. thence to Reykjavik, using best available speed. (D.O.D.(H) 0004A/13 to A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., R.A.3.) |

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X.147. Congratulations on the success of your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1831A/13 to Vice Adm. F.A. Marten.)
H.X.147 had 49 British and 15 Allied ships, and included 28 tankers.
(D.S. 741, 15/9.)

S.D. Convoys. It is proposed that in future S.D. convoys should be routed by C. in C. W.A. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D., 2119A/13 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

INGHAM (C.G. Cutter) — Suggested route to New York from Lisbon. (D.O.D.(F) 0123Z/13 to Opnav.)

ESCOLANO. — ESCOLANO from Fernando Po 8/9 to Las Palmas reported to have on board (A) five enemy nationals as passangers (B) six German stowaways including Nazi agent named Hillman (C) Lieut. Roger and 2nd mate Lelong both deserters from Free French Forces. (F.O.C.N.A. 1122A/15 to N.A. Stn.)

R/C aircraft. — Unless immediate steps are taken to reinforce long range R/C aircraft here we shall not be able to meet commitments in sight in near future. 200 group 1630/12 and 1635/12 to Air Ministry and my 1848A/29/8 refer. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/13 to Admty.)

Destroyers. — Your 1806/11 (Hush, N.T.in W.D.) With very limited numbers of destroyers at our disposal, their allocation between Gibraltar and Freetown must always be regarded as adjustable to meet varying situations. For reasons given in C.in C. S.A's 0159/3, the present indications of U-boat activity, and the strengthening of Force (H) destroyers, decision in Admty. 1433/10 must stand. BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART, VELOX, VIMY WILD SWAN, WIVERN and WRESTLER are to form 18th Flotilla. DUNCAN, VIDETTE and WISHART with attached corvettes form 13th Flotilla. (D.O.D.(F) 1325A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy Speeds. — My 1941B/28/6. H.G. and S.L. Convoys only. Declared speeds should in future be included in sailing telegram Part II. These figures should be shown as a prefix before each ship's name in column (9). (D.T.D. 1911A/13 to N.C.S.O's Gibraltar, Freetown.)

MANCHESTER FIREDRAKE. — Departure MANCHESTER, FIREDRAKE routed South of Azores through approx. 035° 00' N. 040° 00' W. If MANCHESTER can oil FIREDRAKE after passing 040° W. ships will proceed to approx. 038° 00' 060° 00' and thence independently to refitting port. (E.T.A.) If oiling not possible both ships proceed to Bermuda. Local escort HEYTHROP until 025° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1930A/13 to Admty. etc.)

/812 Sqdn.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

812 Sqdn. Request (FAA) No.812 Sqdn. be instructed to R/V at 0900A tomorrow Sunday in position 265° Alboran 35. (S.O. Force H., 2045Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

TAI YANG. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1010/12 TAI YANG arrived Capetown. (Capetown, 0959B/13 to Admty. etc.)

Spanish Schooner. Following is passed for information addressed (?S.O.(I) Freetown, C.in C. S.A. and Admty, from British Consul (?Cape Verde Islands). My 0952/12. Spanish Schooner reported now discharging aviation petrol Sal Island. (? S.O.I. Freetown, 1017/13 to Admty.)

WINDSOR CASTLE, BRITANNIC, NEA HELLAS, defects. Your 0338/31/5 para.2 (B) Convoy W.S.10. WINDSOR CASTLE. Extensive collision damage sustained at Freetown. Repairs estimated require 2 months. BRITANNIC. Minor collision repairs to stern which it is recommended should be undertaken at Bombay. Estimated time 10 days. NEA HELLAS testing of condensers on return to U.K. 10 days. Remainder no defects. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1126B/13 to D. of S.T.)

AURICULA, VIOLET. C. in C. Western Approaches 1440A/12. Request you will comply. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1619A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

TOMBOCTOU. At 0630 G.M.T./13 whilst off Fernando Po S.S. TOMBOCTOU suffered violent explosion in number 2 hold. Believed cause spontaneous combustion of reserve coal bunkers in bottom of hold. Fire is still burning brightly. Hold contains military lorries and motor cycles for Pointe Noire (? and) which it will be necessary to discharge here possibly reloading later. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1637/13.)

/NESTOR

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

NESTOR. NESTOR's 2200Z/11. Report if repairs to turbine feet are within capability of Simonstown Dockyard. (D.O.D.(F) 1651A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.L.87. Your 1440/12. S.L. 87 sails early 14/9. Reason for proposal is not given but GARDENIA will sail in S.L. 87 for U.K. to refit, Admty.1844/5 refers. Not possible to arrange for any other corvettes to sail for U.K. with S.L.87. (C. in C. S.A. 1715N/13 to C.in C. W.A. amended 1945N/13.)

W.S.11 Arrived 1200/13 REPULSE, ENCOUNTER, VELOX, WRESTLER, STARWORT, GUARDIAN with Fast Portion W.S.11. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1805N/13 to Admty.)

Facilities Bathurst. Your 0421/10. Confirmed that sloops and cutters carry 3 months supplies. (C. in C. W.A., 1828A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

Walrus aircraft. Your 0127/1/8. Regret acute shortage of Walrus prevents any being made available for Free French in West Africa nor could crews be spared. Request will be kept in mind. Air Ministry consulted and confirm no other suitable aircraft available. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2021A/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Weekly State 13/9. (C. in C. S.A., 2301N/13) See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

ROYAL EMBLEM. Your 2026A/10. Arrived Great Bitter Lake 10/9. (N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik, 1026C/13 to Admty.)

/Italian

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - contd.

**Italian destroyers sold to Bulgaria (report)**

My 1507/11 and my 1733/10. Russian Assistant N.A. has similar reports from sources he states are close to Saracoglu. Alleges Italian vessels have been purchased and will pass Straits in pairs by (? Esenberg) Fiord. Turkey will be given notice under usual Straits convention terms, since Bulgaria claims to be non-belligerent (Greece and Yugo-Slavia headed by Governments which are not at war with her. (S.O.I Istanbul 1130/13 to S.O.I Med.) N.I.D. Comment. Early in July, Soviet Ambassador to Turkey stated that he had heard a report that Italians had sold six Destroyers to Bulgarian Gov. If a spurious sale of Italian Warships has been arranged with the Bulgarians, it would be possible under the terms of the Straits Convention for these vessels to demand passage, as Bulgaria and the Soviet are at present not at war. On 10/9 the Soviet Foreign Minister warned the Bulgarian Gov. that they had adopted an unfriendly attitude towards the U.S.S.R. and amongst other things were preparing their Black Sea ports as bases for the operations of German and Italian Warships.
Two other reports of a similar nature have been received from S.O.(I) Istanbul, graded C 3. and D 4 respectively.

**Operation "Status 2".**

"Status 2". First flight arrived 1130B, number will be confirmed after check. (V.A. Malta, 1150B/13, to S.O. Force H.)
Second flight arrived 1245B. (V.A. Malta, 1251B/13 to S.O. Force H.)
7 Blenheims and 45 Hurricanes arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 1526B/13 to S.O. Force H.) (See also end of 2030/13.)

**UTMOST.**

3 Blenheims being sent to assist, continue search until nightfall then return to Malta. (Capt. S.10, 1205B/13, to UTMOST.)

**Situation report 147.**

Four destroyers carrying out A/S sweep off Palestine and Syrian Coasts. Syria. Final repatriation convoy B 1 has left Beirut with Adm. Gouton and remainder of Naval personnel.
Western Desert. 100 bombs and 6 mines dropped in air raid on Tobruk lasting from 0300 to 0530 on 10/9. Small Military damage.
(C. in C. Med. 1233C/13 to Admty.)

/Suez

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

**Suez Raid.**

Details damage from raid on Suez night 11/12. No service damage, total service and civilian casualties, 7 killed and 11 wounded. Western Desert night 11/12. 15 Wellingtons dropped nearly 15 tons of bombs on shipping and docks in Benghazi harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1357/13.)

**Benghazi bombed.**

**A/C attack on enemy convoy.**

Summary action against convoy arrived Tripoli morning 13/9. 6 M/Vs 7 Destroyers sighted by Swordfish 2050 hours 11/9 speed 12 to 15 knots. Attacked by 7 Swordfish 0101 hours 12/9, M/V 6000 tons believed left sinking. M/V 8000 tons damaged. R/C 0700 hours 12/9 6 M/Vs 7 Destroyers in line 8 knots. Reduction of speed indicates hits. 8 Blenheims attacked 0215 hours 12/9, 1 M/V 12,000 tons left on fire. 4 hits M/V 10,000 tons. R/C 1510 hours 12/9 5 M/Vs 7 Destroyers 8 knots. Saw large patch oil 2 miles wide wreckage etc. where Blenheims attacked. Swordfish sighted convoy 5 M/Vs 6 Destroyers 2225 hours 12/9. 7 Swordfish attacked 2320 hours 12/9 1 M/V 6,000 tons left on fire. 1 M/V 6,000 tons stopped. 1 M/V 6,000 tons probably hit stopped. 7 Wellingtons attacked 0140 hours 13/9 only 8 or 9 ships left. 1 M/V 10,000 tons hit 4 times well on fire. 1 M/V 12,000 tons hit big fire in hold. 2 medium M/Vs each hit twice. 1 small ship hit once. Summary, 1 M/V 6,000 tons seriously damaged, 1 damaged, 1 M/V 12,000 tons sunk by Blenheims, 1 damaged. 1 M/V 6,000 tons on fire, 2 damaged by Swordfish. 1 M/V 10,000 tons well on fire, 3 others damaged by Wellingtons. Later news follows after tonight's attack. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/13.)

**LISBOA (German)**

Arrived. (Valencia T.H.I. 1830/13 to D. of S.T.)

**Enemy Convoy.**

Leaving position Z 032° 55' 013° 12', a small valuable escorted convoy should reach 098° Z. 340 miles on 15th. (Capt. S.1. 1347C/13 to THUNDERBOLT.)

/ A/C attacks

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.9.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

A/C Attacks on Enemy Convoy.

7 Swordfish attacked convoy 5 M/Vs 6 destroyers resighted by R/C Swordfish after Blenheim attack (see my I.117 12/9.) Attacked at 2320 hours near Zuara 6 torpedoes released 1 M/V 6,000 tons hit stopped and on fire seen by all aircraft. M/V 6,000 tons stopped and much black smoke coming from her and destroyer alongside. Both M/Vs claimed seriously damaged. Possibly hit third M/V 6,000 tons, all returned safely. 7 Wellingtons attacked convoy previously attacked by Swordfish and Blenheims. Low-level and gliding attacks. Total bombs dropped 24,500 lbs. 2 M/Vs left on fire hits on 3 others. Opposition slight, all aircraft returned. Operation "Status" 46 Hurricanes 7 Blenheims started, 45 Hurricanes 7 Blenheims arrived. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2030/13.)

Operation "Status".

THUNDERBOLT
THRASHER

Owing to unavoidable delay in sailing of relief you will be required to remain on patrol until p.m./15. On that day return to Alexandria to enter sanctuary 0500B/20. (route) THRASHER expects to enter your area 16th (route) (Capt. S.1. 2030C/13 to THUNDERBOLT.)

Further my 1.117 12/9 (Attack of Blenheims on Southbound convoy) Crew of missing Blenheim rescued safe by Naval Unit today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2110/13.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

Operation "Ration". — Admty. 0057A/13. See Operations Volume.

Red Sea Shipping Instructions. — My 0614/19/8 para. 2 (A) Amend to read 090° Shadwan Light 6 miles. (C. in C. E.I., 0542Z/13 to Admty.)

HILDA (Italian) — BHADRAVATI escorting prize ship HILDA arrived 1312Z/11 departed for Charbar to recover HILDA's anchor and cable 0832Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0635Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

Minesweepers. — C. in C. Med. 1620/8. (? Unless) (? I) receive instructions (? to the) contrary these (? ships) will be sailed on 15/9 for onward passage to Persian Gulf. (C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/13 to Admty.)

Operation "Snip", Force W. — (i) Operation object interception of Vichy French convoy in Indian Ocean will be known by code word SNIP. (ii) Force T, MAURITIUS, HAWKINS, ANTENOR will be known as Force W for operation. (C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/13 to E.I. Sqdn.)

Mines. — Following additional areas closed to shipping by mines. (Bombay Navy Wireless, 1336Z/13 to Admty.)

Norwegian Minesweepers. — My 1233/4 and my 1945/11. Following from B.N.A. Lisbon. - "Your 1945/11. After delay caused by number of departments involved permission has now been granted providing not more than 3 ships are in port at the same time".(Ends) (Head of M. 1734A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)

### China.

Port W. CLAN FORBES. — C. in C. Med. 1325/11 appears to contemplate landing 23 officers 400 other ranks and 370 tons stores at port W., CLAN FORBES then proceeding to Calcutta. This is most undesirable until water facilities have been provided anti-malaria measures instituted. (C. in C. China, 0352Z/13 to Admty.)

/Use.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China - Contd.

Use of Danish lighters, Bangkok.

Your 0853/10. Are you satisfied that proposed employment is the best use for these lighters? If so, no objection is seen and required assurance in respect of any lighters taken by the Thai Navigation Co. can be given. Request report if any of the lighters will be useful at Singapore or elsewhere as it is believed East Asiatic Co. might be willing to make them available to us if approached by H.M. Representative, Bangkok.
(Head of M. 1050A/13 to C. in C. China.)
Reply: 0411Z/14.

### America and West Indies.

NEWCASTLE A/C.

In view of shortage of Walrus aircraft at Bermuda and better facilities for maintenance there suggest NEWCASTLE should disembark her Walrus at Bermuda en route Boston after parting company from Convoy C.F.2.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/13 to Admty.)
Concur. (D.N.A.D., 1605A/15.)

STRATHEDEN.

Your 1036A/8 and D. of S.T's 1733A/12. CIRCASSIA available to escort STRATHEDEN leaving Halifax (date) if speed of 15 knots can be accepted. PRINCE HENRY available to escort from Trinidad to 040° W. if higher speed is required.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1022Q/13 to Admty.)
Reply: 1716/14.

R.A.3.

Your 1431/9. Approved to haul down your flag on 30/9 and for return as proposed. Request confirmation of date R.C.N. will take over SEABORN. If this is confirmed as 31/10 request report as to responsibility for ship after paying off on 30/9.
(Head of M. 1049A/13 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

LIMOUSIN.

St. Thomas departure 12/9 LIMOUSIN French for Martinique. Capacas reports cargo for St. Thomas 4000 tons U.S. Navy Fuel, for Martinique 3000 tons Bunker Fuel 800 tons Diesel.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1245R/13 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa.)

/S.C. Convoys....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 13.9.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C. Convoys. Reply to Admty. 1638/12 re stronger escorts. (C.N.S. Canada, 1403Z/13). See Operations Volume.

TRUANT. Completes working up programme p.m./18. Intend to sail her a.m./19. Request destination. (C.C.N.F., 1509Z/13 to F.O.S.)

PASTEUR. Your 1622A/10. Assume it is intended that PASTEUR should embark for U.K. the complement of Canadian troops, R.A.F. etc., originally laid down in D. of S.T. 1725A/22/8. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1513Z/13 to Admty.) Confirmed. (D.S.T., 0256A/15.)

BUXTON. Your 0950R/12. BUXTON should proceed to Halifax in first instance to pick up stores and personnel awaiting ship. Subsequent movements will presumably be ordered by Admiralty. (R.A.3, 1542P/13 to B.A.R.M.)

CALIFORNIA. Your 1726P/11. Suggest CALIFORNIA arrives Boston at 2000Z + 5 on 22/9 if convenient. (R.A.3, 1636P/13 to B.A.R.M.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Your 1614Z/11. (Route for Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND.) Concur in your arrangements. (D.O.D.(F) 1847A/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

FORBIN (French) Your 1837B/12. M. of W.T. state that FORBIN cannot be declared Naval Auxiliary. They have instructed Sparks to urge State Dept. to grant leave facilities for Free French crews generally and have also acted through N.A. London and F.O. Unless American Authorities can make this concession alternative (iii)b in your message will be adopted. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2007A/13 to B.A.D.)

Convoy Routes. Opnav 121825. Intend continuing Northern route whenever practicable, as this has advantage of bringing meeting points for escort reliefs closer to Iceland than is possible by more Southerly routes. Airplane Patrols from South Greenland would be a great help. U-Boat concentrations on Northerly route may cause us to use more Southerly routes temporarily, but we would hope to revert to Northern route after short intervals. (1st S.L., 2235Z/13 to Spenavo.)

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Australia.

**Mines.**

Western Approaches to Torres Strait.
Waters enclosed in following areas are dangerous due to British Mines. Area A: Northern limit, the parallel of 10° 43' S., southern limit, the parallel of 11° 00' S., eastern limit, the meridian of 142° 16' E., western limit, the meridian of 141° 52' E.
Area B: Northern limit. The coast of New Guinea, southern limit, the parallel of 10° 30' S., western limit, the meridian 141° 52' E., eastern limit, from 10° 30' 142° 09' E.
In the vicinity of N.W. Reef in a 354° direction from 6.8 miles to the southern extremity of Hawkesbury Island, thence in 287° direction for 5 miles to S.W. extremity of West Island, continuing round the western coast of the Island to N.W. extremity, thence in a 360° direction to coast of New Guinea. Vessels disregarding this warning do so at their peril.
(A.C.N.B., 0204Z/13 to Admty., etc.)
Northern part of Great Barrier Reef, all entrances to Great Barrier Reef between Arlington Reef 16° 42' S. 146° 00' E. and anchor Cay 9° 22' S. 144° 06' E. are dangerous due to British Mines. Vessels wishing to enter to leave the Great Barrier Reef in this area should use either the Great North East Channel or Grafton Passage. Vessels disregarding this warning do so at their peril.
(A.C.N.B., 0229Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

### New Zealand.

**S.S. DEVON.**

Due Auckland p.m./9 not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0949M/13.)

**"Q" Report SILVAPLANA, DEVON overdue.**

At 0800Z/11 SILVAPLANA made QQQQ position 026° 16' S. 164° 25' W. Suspicious vessel. Message was cancelled in P/L at 1055Z/11. Note and frequency entirely different from first signal. No apparent difference in operating. D/F bearing of first signal was 050° from Napier doubtful. At 2225Z/11 SILVAPLANA was instructed to break W/T silence and cancel distress message in code. Nothing further heard. DEVON which left Panama 15/8 is now 4 days overdue at Auckland.
(N.Z.N.B., 1035M/13 to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MONTANA. (torpedoed 11/9.) — U.S.State Dept., is very anxious to know any further details of sinking of MONTANA particularly as regards survivors. Admiralty pass to A.C.I.C.
(B.A.D., 1241R/13, to Admty.) Replies: 1305/14, 1537/14.

EINVIK. (torpedoed 5/9.) — Your 0721/5 to NIAGARA. 12 survivors all Norwegian landed today at Westmann Isle ex Norwegian EINVIK.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1558/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.42. (attacked 10/9,11/9,etc.) — Arrived SKEENA 0930.
(A.C.I.C., 1022/13, to C. in C.W.A.)

ORILLIA. (S.C.42.) — SKEENA assumes nothing has been heard of ORILLIA since she was ordered to return to convoy P.M./10.
(A.C.I.C., 1650/13, to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

Convoy "Indigo 3." — "Indigo 3" was probably sighted and reported by U.Boat at 0635 G.M.T./13.
(D.D.I.C. 1012A/13 to O.P.N.A.V.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Pursuit of S.C.42 continuing.
(D.D.I.C. 1545A/13.)

1530. — Am investigating oil patch in 64.09 N., 23.40W.
(A/C B.J.9K. 1530/13 to 18 Wing H.Q.)

1600. — One U-boat in approx., 049° N., 008° W., at 1600/13 homeward bound.
(F.O.S., 1836A/13, to SEALION.)

1600/12. — Unidentified submarine sighted 16 hours Sept.12th sailing in northerly direction to North Praia da Lua between Ponta Das Salinas and Baia Dos Elafantes. Confidential from Maritime Department.
(C.G.Loanda 1925/13. N.S.O.(I) Capetown, N.S.O.(I)Freetown.)

/1500 G.C.T...

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1500 G.C.T. Plane reports sighting Sub. submerging in 60° 45' N., 30°03' W., at 1500 GCT/13.
(Opnav., 2120/13, to Admty., etc.)

1300/10. Trawler TOR. 2 arrived Fleetwood reports sighting Submarine unidentified 15 miles North of Butt of Lewis at 1300/10.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 2241/13 to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit in position 64.02 N., 24.10 W.
(A/C U., 1510/13 to A.O.C.Reykjavik.)

By A/C. Following has been read, Addressed Reykjavik A.O.C. from Aircraft BJ9K. Am over enemy submarine in position 62.40 N., 24.24 W.
(A.C.I.C., 1805/13.)
Enemy previously reported, periscope only sighted.
(A/C BJ9K, 1810/13, to Reykjavik A.O.C.)
Have attacked with bombs.
(A/C BJ9K, 1820/13 to A.O.C.Reykjavik.)
A/C reports attacking S/M in 62° 40' N., 24° 24' W.
(C. in C.W.A., 2051A/13, to Escort S.C.42.)

By SIDMOUTH 12/9, (? non-sub.) My 1830A/12. Contact has been stationary and has been under A/S watch for 29 hours. 5.7 attack carried out with only result slight trace of oil. Decrease of depth over contact by 6 fathoms observed. Consider contact is wreck heading E., and W. Position confirmed 051° 31' 40'' N., 005° 12' 00' W. Operation abandoned 1930/13.
(S.O.I., Liverpool, 1959A/13 to C. in C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

**Force L.** SHROPSHIRE, ARGUS and 3 destroyers arrived at Scapa this morning from operations in northern waters.

**Force A.** The Flag of Rear Admiral Vian was struck in NIGERIA at sunset today.

**Soviet operations.** The Soviet S/M MOLODKI 172 claims to have sunk a loaded transport at 1730 today between Kirkenes and Petsamo.

### British Air Operations.

Last night, 137 aircraft attacked the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU and, 10 the PRINZ EUGEN, at Brest Results were not observed. The inner docks at Le Havre and Lorient were also attacked.

### Enemy Air Operations.

**Faeroes.** Two enemy aircraft attacked the Faeroes and Nolso Lighthouse this afternoon. No damage or casualties were caused.

**F.N.18** Convoy F.N.18 was bombed at 2044 in 54° 22' N., 0° 19' W.

**E.C.73.** Convoy E.C.73 was twice bombed this afternoon in 52° N., 1° 44' E., and 52° 8' N., 1° 58' E., respectively. No damage was caused.

**H.G.72** A bomb was dropped 1½ miles from Convoy H.G.72 at 1238, off the southwest of Ireland.

Warning is given that H.E.111 and H.E.115 aircraft are known to be fitted for carrying torpedoes.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Sheringham Buoy today.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames last night. Two mines are thought to have detonated on Foulness Sand and Dengie Flats respectively, but there was no evidence of minelaying in any other part of the Estuary.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Status II" — S.O. Force H., in NELSON arrived at Gibraltar at 1940A today with ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS, HERMIONE and destroyers.

Libya and Western Desert. — 7 Wellingtons attacked Spanish Quay and shipping at Tripoli from 0100 to 0245 today, obtaining probable hits on shipping in the harbour and lying at the quay.

4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Egypt and Canal Area. — About 12 aircraft attacked Suez from 0222 to 0525 today. Mines are suspected. No Naval damage was caused but there was considerable civilian damage.

Traffic in the Canal was resumed today.

U-boat Campaign.

Convoy H.G.72. — See C. in C. W.A. 1205A/14.

Convoy S.C.42. — DOUGLAS reports that S.S. JEDMOOR (attacked 9/9) has rejoined the convoy and is undamaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9;1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Escort situation in W.A. | C. in C. W.A. 0051A/14. See Operations Volume. |
| HARRIER. HALCYON. SALAMANDER. | Proposal re. (Admiral Miles 1548C/14). See Operations Volume. |
| 1st M.S.F. | It will be necessary to take 1st M/S Flotilla in hand for conversion for service in Arctic, two ships being taken in hand at a time. 2. BRAMBLE and SHARPSHOOTER, now in dockyard hands, will be converted for Arctic service before rejoining the Flotilla. (Controller 1628A/14 to C. in C. W.A., S.O. 1st M.S.F.) |
| Destroyers for Arctic. | Request you will make proposals for taking in hand necessary destroyers for conversion for service in Arctic. 2. Probable that the conversion will take 3 or 4 weeks. (Controller 1629A/14 to C. in C. H.F.) |
| S/M's in Far North. | It is required for reasons of supply to estimate now the probable duration and extent of our submarine activities in the Far North. 2. Request your opinion, particularly from the point of view of:- (a) Local climatic conditions including availability of bases. (b) Continuation of sufficient targets into the winter to warrant allocating British submarines to Murmansk area. 3. Russian authorities should not be directly consulted. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1851A/14 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk). |
| 3 Swedish ships. | GULMAREN, BORELAND and BALBOA from Gothenburg for America may be expected 15/9 at about 4 hour intervals and may be allowed to proceed after usual boarding for identification. Report each sailing to C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C., and Adty. (D.E.W.D. 2326A/14 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

At 0001 G.C.T./16 execute the words previously excepted and place W.P.L. 51 in full effect. The above is from O.P.N.A.V. and has been sent to all holders of W.P.L. 51. (Spenavo No T.O.O. to Adty. Rec. 0743).

Proposed Tug Pool. — Formation of a Tug Pool manned by Navy crew has been proposed by the Navy Department. This pool is to furnish service to the Army, Navy and Merchant Vessels engaged in tran-shipment of Lend-Lease materials to U.K. Suggest that until arrival of Navy Salvage Vessel and Navy Tug two of British Tugs manned by British crews be held in Iceland. (Spenavo. Recd 0758/14 to Adty.)

### Defence of U.K.

Oban. — Your 1251/29/8. Owing to necessary rearrangements of duties of A/S Trawlers at Oban in order to strengthen escort Forces in my command early arrival of Seine Net vessels to guard the A/S F.D. at this important Convoy Anchorage is a matter of urgency. When may they be expected? (C. in C. W.A. 1658/14 to A.C.O.S.)

### Movements.

EREBUS. — Cancel A.M. 1721A/12. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0007A/14)

TRUANT. — Your 1509Z/13. Gibraltar for onward passage rejoining 1st S.F. (F.O. S/Ms. 1129A/14 to F.O.C. N.F.)

4th M.L.F. — Your 1805A/11. 4th M.L. Flotilla will be ready sail for U.K. on or after 16/9. 2 Vessels are able to steam on one engine only. Intend these 2 and 2 others start from Westmann Island. Escort and remainder start from Hvalfjord calling Westmann Island to refuel. (A.C.I.C. 1130/14 to Adty.)

Flag of R.A. Vian. — A.M. 1531A/12. Flag is being struck at Sunset/14. (F.O. Force A. 1331A/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

**Oilers.**

Request oilers ALDERSDALE and OLIGARCH complete with bunker cargo (?and) provisions. After period for rest they may be used for fleet attendant duties at Hvalfjord pending further instructions. BLACK RANGER with cargo of furnace fuel will be required for an operation about (date). Report if Oiler ALDERSDALE and Oiler OLIGARCH have experienced any major difficulties in recent operations. Oiler OLIGARCH has 100 tons of Norwegian and Russian property which should be unloaded and shipped to U.K. as convenient steps being taken to make a careful check of inventory. (C. in C. H.F. 0919/14 to A.C.I.C.)

**Operation "Graph".**

Operation "Graph". Request you will report.
(a) If wireless is working and between what limits can it be tuned.
(b) If charts for passage to a West Coast port can be supplied from Iceland (C). (D.O.D. (H) 1054A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

**Operation J.R.**

V.A. Dover 1122A/14, C. in C. Portsmouth 2203A/14.
See Operations Volume.

**NIGERIA.**

Request you will cause an examination of damage to stem of NIGERIA to be carried out with a view to gathering any evidence which will help to establish nature of object which NIGERIA rammed.
2. Report should be signalled.
(D.O.D.(H) 1514A/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

**S.S. INGERTO (Norwegian.)**

NIGERIA reports:- INGERTO joined S.C.41 from Hvalfjord as a prize about a week ago ends. Request information whereabouts of this ship. (C. in C. W.A. 1546A/14 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

**Return Convoy "Dervish".**

Details. (Admiral Miles 1551C/14).
See Operations Volume.

**S/M's in Far North.**

F.S.H. 32. (B) Consider that this restriction should now be relaxed. Intend freedom of action for British S/Ms to enable them to attack many small tankers and other suitable targets by gunfire. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2241C/14th).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Operations.

**Patrols.** "Hornli", "Bert", "Stab", "Trost" now being flown. Also a Rover Patrol in Stand Area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1136/14).
My 1136/14. "Bert" and "Rover" Patrol effectiveness nil no cloud cover. "Hornli" 100% nothing to report. (C. in C. Rosyth 1922/14).

**Flying boats in Iceland.** Your 1234A/13. Present plan is that Flying Boats will remain in Iceland during winter. (A.C.I.C. 1307/14 to Adty.)

### Enemy Air Operations.

**S.S. BLOOMFIELD** As N.O.I.C. Faeroes 2226A/13. (A.C.O.S. 1015/14).
My 2226A/13. Search carried out today in maximum visibility by LORD LLOYD has failed to find any trace of BLOOMFIELD and ship is presumed to have sunk. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1544A/14).

**H.M.T. CHASSIRON.** Air Attack on shipping. (1) 2255/7/9. (2) CHASSIRON. (5) In company with H.M. T. COMITATUS REHEARO and LORD DARLING. (6) None. No damage to aircraft observed. -(7) 55° 00' N. 01° 12' W. approx. (8) L.L.B. by one Heinkel 111 - 4 bombs 500 lbs impact fire opened with 12 pounder 2 Hotchkiss and twin Lewis. Aircraft turned away on sighting ships balloons. (C. in C. Rosyth 1229/14).

**H.E.111, H.E. 115.** Attack by aircraft. Both H.E.111 and H.E.115 are now known to be fitted for dropping torpedoes. It is probable the enemy will try to attack from inside 1000 yards and below 100 feet. (ii) Escort and convoy are to be warned accordingly. (C. in C. Plymouth 1248/14).

**Convoy E.C.73.** Enemy bombing Convoy. My position 52° 0' N. 1° 44' E. (WALLACE 1354/14).
My 1354 2 D.O. 8 bombs no hits. (WALLACE 1419/14).
1 Aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 52° 8' N. 1° 58' E. (WALLACE 1521/14).
My 1521. One Ju. 88, three bombs no hit. (WALLACE 1531/14).

**Air Attacks on shipping.** Cancel my 1229/14 (N.T. in W.D) transmitted to you in error. (C. in C. Rosyth 1521/14 to Adty.)

/H.G.72.....

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

H.G.72. My 1427A (N.T. in W.D) F.W. dropped one bomb at 1238 through clouds 1½ miles from convoy. (PHILANTE 1611A/14).

Faeroes attacked. 2 enemy aircraft carried out attack on Faroe Islands today, 1 dropped 2 bombs in Trangisvaag Fiord Sydero at 1305. 1 Machine Gunned Nolso Lighthouse 1320. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C, Faroes 1728/14).

Convoy F.N.18. Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Consequence" my position 54° 22' N. 0° 19' W. (VERSATILE 2044/14).

### Mining.

S.N. 23B. Intention. (R.A.(M) 1127A/14) See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary. There was considerable enemy air activity over Thames Estuary for night of 13th/14th Sept. Between 2040 and 2300 enemy planes were engaged by ships in the Oaze and Southern Barrow Deep. One plane was definitely distinguished as a large four engined aircraft. Visibility was poor and planes appeared to be about 3000 feet. Two mines are thought to have detonated on Foulness Sand at about 2119 and on Dengie Flats at about 2256. There was no evidence of minelaying in any other part of the Estuary. (S.O. Thames L.D. Flotilla Sheerness 1156/14).

Sheringham Buoy. Following 4 mines detonated today by L.L. off Sheringham Buoy. (F.O. Humber 1810/14).

### Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Trawlers. About 12 French or Spanish fishing Trawlers have been reported on approx. line from 051° N. 013° 10' W. to 050° 35' N. 010° 30' W. As this is an unusual number opportunity should be taken to Board and examine as many as possible if circumstances permit. (C. in C. W.A. 0048A /14 to PHILANTE).

/Transports.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Transports. Norwegian information. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1021/14). N.I.D. Comment. "There is no confirmation that these Movements are taking place. Information from Oslo has recently been unreliable".

T.L.C. Aircraft reports Tank Landing Craft in 052° 27' N. 004° 36'W.at1533/14 200° 8 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1758/14 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN).

Main units. Distribution. (D.D.I.C. 1847A/14) See Lion Copy.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.11X. Your 1232/10. RODNEY should be sailed to R/V with W.S.11X, a.m./21 in approx. 042° N. 022° 30' W. Admty. has been requested to signal R/V. (S.O. Force H., 1043A/14 to C, in C. A.W.I.). See also North Atlantic, Operation "Halberd." Admty. 1011A/6 para 4. Capt. (D) 19th D.F. in LAFOREY with LIGHTNING and ORIBI have been detailed. (C. in C. H.F., 1359A/14 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Convoy Escorts. Revised arrangements to allow escort groups more time in harbour for rest and training. (C. in C. W.A., 1639A/14 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Greenock, etc.) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 148. WHITEHALL reports following ships in H.X. 148 not present at 1000/12. ARGOS HILL, GREY COUNTY, TUSCAN STAR, CELTIC STAR, MIRLO. (C. in C. W.A. 1956A/14 to Admty.)

ODORIN. EMBERLY. Your 1339A/12. ODORIN and EMBERLY to be sailed to Lyness to fit guns. Sailed with SKEENA for S.C.42. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2212/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M/Vs sunk by 0.24.

Your 1136A/13 P.C. and S. 0013A/14 041° 53' 004° 49' 231° 14 knots. (?Sunk by gunfire) barque 1,200 tons. Tropedoed merchant ship 6,000 tons last seen heavy list and sinking. Both ?south-bound fully laden, A/S activity highly increased. Fired 6 torpedoes and 28 rounds of ammunition. Request time of arrival.
(S/M 0.24 0130A/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0130A Adjust speed to pass through position (X) at 0700A/15 and arrive off Europa Point 0700A/16. (F.O.C.N.A., 0906A/14 to 0.24)

LISBOA (German).

Arrived Valencia. (F.O.C.N.A., 0730A/14 to S.O. Force H).

ESCOLANO.

My 1122/13. If ship is encountered men should be interrogated and baggage examined. If identity is established as stated, they and their baggage should be removed. Possibly two further Officer deserters from Free French are on board. ESCOLANO has ship Navicert. (F.O.C.N.A., 1053/14 to N.A. Stn).

W.S.11 X. Operation "Halberd".

Your 1232/10, not to Admty. RODNEY should be sailed to R/V with W.S.11 X A.M./21 in approx. 042° N., 022° 30' W., Admty., has been requested to signal R/V. (S.O. Force H., 1043A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Operation "Halberd". Proposed movements west of Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 1055A/14 to Admty)
See Operations Volume.

EGRET.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900Z/15. Requirements. (EGRET, 1110Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

B.D.V.s

My 1232A/10 Boom Defence Vessels BARMILL TEAL PRINCE DE LIEGE and JAN DE WAELE due Horta near future are to be routed as in my 1958A but add position (C) 013° 55' N., 018° 10' W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202/14 to R.O. Horta).
My 2115/13 BARMILL, TEAL, PRINCE DE LIEGE, JAN DE WAELE completed with fuel, departures 14th in accordance with routeing instructions contained in F.O.C.N.A., 1958/9. (R.O. Horta, 1624/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/French.....

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic. - Contd.

**French Convoy.**

Gibraltar 1540/13 unidentified French armed trawler, French ships CAP BLANC, laden, MONT CASSELL, KERYADO both full, ALGERIE light, Westbound. (S.O. (I) Gib., 1415A/14 to Admty).

**Operation "Status" 2".**

"Status 2" completed without incident. Aircraft flown off from 038° N., 004° E. Blenheim escort proceeded from Gibraltar in formation, this greatly facilitated homing. One Hurricane crashed taking off from (?FURIOUS) Pilot Killed. Enemy air R/C appears more thorough and effective Aircraft keep low to avoid R.D.F.
(S.O. Force H., 1612A/14 to Admty).

**Force H.**

Arrival F.O. Force H in NELSON, ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS, HERMIONE, ZULU (corrupt group) LANCE, LIVELY, LEGION, FORESIGHT, FORESTER. (F.O.C.N.A., 1940A/14 to Admty etc).

### South Atlantic.

**Bathurst supplies.**

In view of the present limited facilities for watering at Bathurst request O.S. convoy escorts be instructed to arrive with fresh water tanks as full as possible distilling whilst on passage if fuel considerations permit.
(C. in C. S.A., 0349N/14)

**S.L.87, S.L.88.**

Your 1619/13 and my 1715N/13. Admty 2122/12 was not received until late 13/9 S.L.87 sailed early A.M./14. It was not possible to adjust escort arrangements to include additional corvettes without reducing Freetown escort for O.S.5 below limit desirable. One in any case will be sailed with S.L.88.
(C. in C. S.A., 1449N/14 to Admty).
Departure 0900/14. BRILLIANT, AMARANTHUS, GARDENIA, SARABANDE, ASPHODEL, with convoy S.L.87.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1557N/14 to Admty etc).

**Intelligence.**

Following changes in Intelligence Organisation taking place forthwith. (C. in C. S.A., 1721N/14)
See Lion Copy.

/SPONDILUS.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

**SPONDILUS, suspicious convoy.**

SPONDILUS on 6/9 at 1445 in approx. 022° 11' S., 005° 10' W., sighted convoy steering 310° consisting of one large tanker and five ships escorted by cruiser or large destroyer which was hull down and could not be clearly seen but had two funnels and considerable superstructure. Convoy was sighted 3 points on starboard bow, SPONDILUS steering 130°, Speed 7 knots, and convoy took 1½ hours to disappear. Remaining ships consisted of 4 cargo vessels and one passenger type motor vessel of about 15,000 tons all in peace time colours. Escort and convoy took no notice of SPONDILUS. At 1315 same day an unusual disturbance in the sea was observed distant one mile which could have been submerged S/M. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1755B/14 to Admty).

### Mediterranean.

**Bardia bombed.**

Night 12/13 7 F.A.A. Albacores bombed Bardia dumps and Gambut landing ground. One aircraft on ground destroyed by direct hit at Gambut.
Day 13/9. Hurricanes and Tomahawks made 35 sorties on covering patrol over forward landing grounds. No engagements. 9 Sorties on reconnaissance Benghazi Cyrenaica and sea Recco between Crete and Libya.

**Crete bombed.**

Crete night 12/13, 10 Wellingtons dropped 19 tons of bombs on Heraklion and Maleme aerodromes. Many bombs burst on main runway at Heraklion where it is believed ammunition dumps were ignited. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1031/14).

**Suez Mines.**

C. in C. Med., 1850C/25/7. Report B for 12th and 13th. LL and S.A. on suspected mines in Suez Bay and at km. 160.6 canal. In addition diving and trawling at 160.6. No result. Mines in Canal have always been treated for SAMMY for a considerable time. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1035C/14 to Admty).

/BALCIC.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

BALCIC. My 1714/11 BALCIC again. Now expected to sail approx. 18/9 for Trieste,(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1131/14 to S.O.(I) Med).

Libya. Appreciation of enemy reinforcements, losses in convoy. (C. in C. M.E. 1200/14 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER, Italian U/B. P.M./15 expected to enter port 60 miles 110° from Y, one Italian U-boat from 040° 30' 017° 15' route not known. (Capt., S.1., 1226C/14 to THRASHER).

Shipping for Military supplies. To meet urgent military requirements for stores to Palestine and Syria NYMPHE and BANTRIA have been taken over for sea transport service. In addition propose allocating NICOLAS G.CULUCUNDIA, CAP VERDE, OLIVE BANK, MOUNT OLYMPOS, CHARLTON HALL, additional tonnage may be necessary. Vessels required for about three months. (2) Every endeavour will be made to replace large vessels as soon as possible by small sea transport ships at present fully committed in Mediterranean and Red Sea. Agreed MEDMAST. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1245/14 to D. of S.T.)

Suez Raid. Ref. C.A.F.O., 287 (A) Night 13/14 calm, slight cloud (B) high level attack by 12 planes on Suez, 0222 to 0525 (C) H.E., incendiary, suspect mines (D) 30 H.E. 4 U.X. (?B) few incendiaries (E) Service damage nil, military casualties, civilian damage considerable. (F) 6 fighters up, no interception, A/A active (G) balloons up. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1331C/14).

Operation "Status 2". Report second phase "Status." Fuel remaining average 56 gallons. Minimum 20 gallons. Maximum 70 gallons. Average time in air 3 hours, 45 minutes. Average height 5,000 feet. Average speed 160 M.P.H. 45 aircraft left carrier, 45 arrived Malta, two damaged landing. 10 left for Middle East 14/9, intend dispatching remaining 14 to M.E. 15/9. (H.Q., Malta, 1635/14).

/Tripoli.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Tripoli bombed. Night 13/14. 7 Wellingtons attacked Spanish Quay and shipping Tripoli 0100 to 0245, 27500 lbs bombs on shipping in harbour and lying at Spanish Quay. Probable hits on the ships against the quay. Wellingtons observed large ship aground blazing furiously 30 to 40 miles West of Tripoli, 0230 hours, large explosion seen on board. Probable victim previous night, by Swordfish and Wellingtons. 1 Blenheim

A/C crew rescued by UTMOST. crew shot down 12/9 arrived back Malta 0800 hours in submarine. Magnificient effort by submarine. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1635/14 amended 2128/14.)

ADANA. Turkish ADANA (1158 tons) on charter to U.K. Commercial Corporation for carrying relief stores Turkey to Greece may leave Istanbul about 21st. Turkish Red ~~Crescent~~ which will be illuminated at night is painted on each side and on bridge. Do not molest. (Capt. S.1. 1709C/14 to TORBAY).

Suez mines. C. in C. Med., 1850C/25/7. Report B for 14th. Mine at Kms 161 has been located. Hoped to salve it to-morrow. LL and SA on suspected mines in Suez Bay and at kms 160.6. In addition diving and (?trawling) at 160.6. (?no) results. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1917C/14 to Admty).

REGELE PAV. Roumanian. B.3. report states sunk in Black Sea first week of September. No ships of this name can be traced, but REGELE CAROLE I, 2369 tons, was last reported at Constanza on 2/6. (D.S.740, 14/9).

Situation Report 148. No change in general situation. 2. S/M See F.O.C.N.A. 1340A/12.
3. (?Malta) aircraft. See H.Q., R.A.F. 1730/13. (C. in C. Med., 2232/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941. Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

**Iraq Bases.** Scale of development. (W.O. 0400/14 to C. in C. India).

**HILDA (Italian).** My 0635/13 BHADRAVATI departed Chanbar 1230Z/14, cable and anchor recovered. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 1316Z/14 to Admty etc).

**Iran requirements.** S.N.O.P.G. has been asked by Minister Teheran to proceed to Teheran in connection with a.m. 2005/5. I have instructed him to endeavour to obtain use of Banda Shahpur Floating Dock either by requisition or by hire. This to be included under Naval Clause 4. (C. in C. E.I., 1640Z/14 to Admty).

### China.

**Use of Danish lighters.** Your 1050/13. Proposed employment of lighters only considered practical proposition until N.E. Monsoon breaks. After that risks would be excessive. In any event these lighters would be of great value for use in Malayan Ports. (C. in C. China, 0411Z/14 to Admty).

**ANHUI.** Ambassador Tokyo 181 13/9. My original intention was for ANHUI to call at Hong Kong after leaving Yokohama for a few hours to replenish provisions only. Consider evacuation from Shanghai unless on a large scale could best be carried out by making use of normal shipping facilities. As regards disembarkation of passengers for Canada and Australia Hong Kong Govt. are anxious that it should not take place here as if Europeans are allowed to land probable that many Indians will also wish to do so. If however it is considered essential for passengers to Canada to disembark here it must be clearly understood that no others will be allowed to land. (Cdre. I/C Hong Kong, 0425Z/14 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

LIMOUSIN (French). Following is a repetition of my 1646R/10 (begins) My 0028R/2. Ship sailed Guiria 8/9 for Martinique (ends). (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1040R/14 to Admty).

BUXTON. Your are to sail after dark on 22/9 and proceed Halifax to pick up stores and personnel awaiting you. Subsequent movements will be ordered by Admiralty. (B.A.R.M., 1156R/14 to BUXTON).

DIANTHUS CANDYTUFT. My 1252Z/8 and my 1306Z/12. DIANTHUS urgently required for further convoy duty. She will probably be replaced by CANDYTUFT at present out of action. (C.C.N.F., 1319Z/14 to B.A.R.M.)

FORTH Proposed programme. (C.C.N.F., 1348Z/14). See Operations Vol. Concur. (F.O.S. 1058A/15) Admty reply (A.C.N.S., 1925A/15 to C.C.N.F.)

Routeing. Offices.. Reply to C. in C. A.W.I., 1501/2 re proposed reorganisation of routeing offices. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1536A/14) See Lion Copy.

STRATHEDEN. Your 1022/13. Speed of 15 knots for STRATHEDEN from Halifax to Trinidad is acceptable. Fast escort from Trinidad is not considered essential. (D.O.D. (F) 1716A/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42 (attacked 10/9, 11/9).

Indicate P.C. and S and whether TAHCHEE is in tow. (C. in C. W.A., 0052A/14 to ORILLIA)
ALBERNI and KENOGAMI sailed 0830. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0831/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
2 Motor Launches leaving Vestmann for 062° 00' N., 020° 00' W., to sweep West. Ordered to keep clear of convoy. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1031/14 to escort of S.C.42).
Your 1650A/13 and SKEENA 1700Z/11. Request you arrange air search for ORILLIA in vicinity of 061° 15' N., 041° 00' W. Three ships may also be still afloat in this vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 1125A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
Following is a repetition of my 2130/13 (begins) C. in C. W.A., repeated escort S.C.42 from N.O.I.C. Iceland. SALADIN sailed 1745 SKATE 1830. (ends). (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1139/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
On reaching Cape Reykjanes leave convoy and proceed at best speed to Reykjavik complete with fuel then join S.C.42. Trawlers in company are to escort convoy to destination. (C. in C. W.A., 1153A/14 to SALISBURY).
When SALISBURY has joined ships addressed are to return to Iceland. (C. in C. W.A., 1246A/14 to SKEENA, COLUMBIA, ST. CROIX.)
When ALBERNI and KENOGAMI have joined S.C.42 detach Newfoundland Escort Corvettes and trawlers BUTTERMERE and WINDERMERE to Reykjavik to fuel and await orders. When Corvettes from O.N.14 have joined S.C. 42 detach ALBERNI and KENOGAMI to Reykjavik to fuel and await orders. Corvettes report positions of convoy and E.T.A. when well clear of convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1625A/14 to DOUGLAS).
Report if SKEENA or DOUGLAS have any information regarding survivors of S.C. 42. (C. in C. W.A., 1627A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 1627/14. My 2023/14 refers. 115 further survivors known to be in ORILLIA and MOOSEJAW. Further signal will be made landing in Iceland. (A.C.I.C., 2118/14 to Admty).
A.M.2200Z/11. It is thought that some boats with survivors may have made for Greenland coast between 61° N., and 62° N. Would it be possible to arrange any search of this area? (A.C.N.S. (H) 2341Z/14 to Opnav).

MONTANA (torpedoed 11/9).

B.A.D. Washington's 1241R/13. 2 good boats with all possible survivors seen leaving MONTANA 1 hour after torpedo attack at 1540Z/11 in 063° 40' N., 035° 50' W. (A.C.I.C., 1305/14 to Admty, D.D.I.C., 1817Z/14 to Opnav).
Your 1241R/13. Only news so far received of sinking of MONTANA is that ship was observed by an aircraft to be torpedoed at 1445/11 in 63° 40' N., 35° 50' W., and crew were taking to boats. (D.T.D., 1537A/14 to B.A.D.)

/JEDMOOR..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.9.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked - Contd.

JEDMOOR (attacked 9/9). Merchantman JEDMOOR rejoined Convoy and is undamaged, no (?further) attack. (DOUGLAS, 1530/14 to A.C.I.C.)

Submarines Reported.

0211 G.M.T. By D/F at 0211 G.M.T. U-boat in area within a radius of 50 miles from 56° 40' N., 12° W. (D.D.I.C., 0358A/14).

0915 Am over enemy S/M in 61.57 N., 21.35 W. enemy S/M previously reported has dived. (A/C E., 0915/14 to Reykjavik, A.O.C.)

0950. Am over enemy submarine in 48.34 N., 8.45 W. enemy submarine previously reported was periscope only sighted course 030 True. (A/C F. 0950/14 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Use of German A/C. C. in C. W.A. 1205A/14 to escort of H.G.72. See Operations Volume.

1440. Am over enemy submarine in 56.15 N., 12.00 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 270° estimated speed 10. (A/C duty R., 1440/14 to 15 Group) Aircraft reports enemy U-boat in 56.15 N., 12.00 W., at 1440A. U-boat dived. (C. in C. W.A., 1520A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 1500A/14).

1516. Am investigating suspicious oil patch and possibly periscope in 51° 19 N., 10.36 W. (A/C V Home 1516/14 to 19 Group H.Q.) A/C reports suspicious object (oil patch and possible periscope) in (position), 1516/14. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1548/14 to PHILANTE).

2030. A/C reports U-boat in 58° 00' N., 10° 35' W. at 2030/14. (C. in C. W.A., 2104A/14 to escorts of O.G.74).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy S/M in position 62.25 N., 21.20 W. have attacked enemy with 4 depth charges, estimate no hits. (A/C B., 0915/14 to Reykjavik A.O.C.)

By A/C. (?Am over enemy submarine in) 56.08 N., 11.50 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C Duty R., 1129/14 1215/14 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Detach 2 destroyers, not MONTGOMERY, to hunt U-boat attacked by aircraft 056° 08' N., 011° 50' W. Aircraft co-operating. Ships detached report names when well clear.
(C. in C. W.A., 1227A/14 to WHITEHALL).
My 1227A/14 U-boat was sighted on surface and submerged when attacked with bombs. Result unknown. (C. in C. W.A., 1243A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).

By A/C Am over enemy S/M in 56.39 N., 12.22 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit. (A/C Duty J., 1515/14 to 15 R Group)

My 1520A/14 (see S/Msreported) Another aircraft report attacking U-boat with depth charges in 56° 39' N., 12° 22' W. Estimate one hit.
Both reports may refer to same U-boat.
(C. in C. W.A., 1548A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL).
My 1548A/14. D/F Bearings indicate that position of U-boat given is accurate.
(C. in C. W.A.1610A/14 to WINCHELSEA, WITCH, WHITEHALL)
Sail PIORUN and GARLAND at best speed to hunt U-boat attacked by aircraft in 56° 39' N., 12° 22' W., at 1515/14. Aircraft and two destroyers of 10th Group are co-operating.
(C. in C. W.A., 1629A/14 to Capt. D. Greenock).
Your 1227A and Admty 1548/14 have searched in 056° 08' N., 011° 06' W., with no result and aircraft not met. Now searching towards 056° 39' N., 012° 22' W. Visibility poor with fog in patches. (WITCH, 1635A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
Have searched around 056° 39' N., 012° 22' W., -since 1715 with no result. Aircraft not met. FOLKESTONE must leave for fuel by 2359/14 at latest. WITCH can continue search until 2359/15. WINCHELSEA reports A/S set defective. Request instructions. (WITCH, 1930A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
If not in contact WITCH return to Londonderry at 0001/15. WINCHELSEA continue hunt as long as fuel permits fuelling at Londonderry before returning to base. (C. in C. W.A. 2205A/14 to WITCH, WINCHELSEA).

/U/B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.9.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. - Contd.

U/B sunk on 3/8.

Their Lordships consider that the attacks of WANDERER and ST. ALBANS at 1830/3/8 and of HYDRANGEA at 1957/3/8 were carried out on the same German U-boat and together achieved its destruction. They congratulate you, your officers and ships' companies upon this success.
(V.C.N.S. 1630A/14 to WANDERER, ST. ALBANS, HYDRANGEA).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Soviet Operations.

Soviet M.T.B's claim to have torpedoed 2 transports off Petsamo, last night.

British Air Operations.

Blenheims today attacked shipping off Juist and claim to have sunk a 2000 ton and a 3500 ton ship and to have left a 3000 ton ship sinking. Targets were also attacked at Haugesund and Karm Sund.

Enemy Air Operations.

The Norwegian tanker VINGA a straggler from O.S.6 was bombed and damaged at 0820 today in approx. 58° 1' N. 13° 20' W.

Convoy E.C.73 was bombed again at 2010 off Scarborough. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.G.72 was attacked at 1315. LOCHGARRY received minor damage and returned to Thorshavn with a U.X.B. on board. The convoy was attacked again about 1950 in 51° 59' N. 5° 50' W. S.S. DARU was sunk.

Mining.

Operation S.N.23B.

PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK left Port ZA at 1954 today.

/Clyde....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining - Contd.

Clyde. Tugs FLYING KITE and ATLANTIC COCK were blown up this afternoon and seriously damaged apparently by a mine laid prior to 8/4/41, in Dalmuir Basin, and another tug was damaged. The Clyde was closed for a short time.

Tanker PONTFIELD in F.S.94 was mined off the Outer Dowsing in the early hours of today. She is reported to have broken in half but the stern half arrived at Yarmouth in tow at 1315A/16.

Mines were detonated off the Humber and Nab Tower.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar. A message was sent to the Governor of Gibraltar today regarding air attack.

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

Egypt & Canal Area. Alexandria was bombed by a few enemy aircraft from 0400 to 0500 today. Slight damage was caused.

Aegean. Many ships are reported loading military stores and personnel at Piraeus. TORBAY has been ordered to establish a patrol in the Aegean.

A press report today states that within the last three days Greek irregulars sank an Italian transport and seriously damaged another by fire, in Salonika harbour.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Force T. (Force W. Operation "Snip".)

MAURITIUS, HAWKINS and ANTENOR left Seychelles at 0515Z today.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. NEWBURY, ex convoy O.N.14 reported that she was torpedoed at 0552 today in 54° 39' N. 28° 4' W.

S.C.42.

Survivors of S.S. BERURY have landed in Iceland, and the ship is presumed to have been torpedoed 10-11 September.

A submarine was reported at 1306 G.C.T. today in 20° 30' N. 72° 30' W. U.S. planes are searching.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Atlantic escorts.**

In view of Admty. 1638A/12 (see A. & W.I.) request confirmation that destroyers and corvettes detailed in C.C.N.F's 0237Z/8, should proceed to U.K. with H.X.150 and subsequently rejoin Western Approaches Command.
(C. in C. W.A., 1451A/15.)

**Channel sailings.**

Present policy in Channel and its approaches is to sail ships by daylight with Fighter protection. Normal route for ships coming from Gibraltar is similar to that given recently to WIVERN. It is therefore convenient for them to be sailed if possible, so that their T.O.A. off the Scillies is at dawn, when they can receive Fighter protection for their onward passage up Channel.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1558/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

**HARRIER, HALCYON, SALAMANDER.**

Following has been received from Admiral Miles. (Repeats 1548C/14.)
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1656A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

**Charts of Norway.**

Asking for Admiralty charts of Norwegian coasts for himself and Soviet Union authorities there.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1358C/15.)

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

The following has been received from Opnav. Room. 1.5 sent DESDIV FOUR and planes assist sail cast - 4.2 12th September. No further information received 1736/14.
(Spenavo, 1144/15 to Admty.)

**Recognition Signals.**

U.S. Signals continue as follows. These signals continue in force as shown in S.P.02414 now in course of distribution and further extracts will not be signalled after 16/10 unless specially asked for.
(D.S.D., 1805A/15 to Admty. General Mge.)

### Defence of U.K.

**Oban.**

C. in C. W.A. 1658A/14. Transfer of Seine net vessels is dependent upon arrival of H.D.M.L's at Scapa. Only H.D.M.L's 1040 and 1064 have so far arrived. Request I may be informed when further boats of this Flotilla may be expected.
(A.C.O.S., 1024A/15 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements.

P.34. — Intend to sail P.34 a.m./16 for Gibraltar. Route &c. (Capt.(S) 3, 0927A/15, 1144A/16.)

4th M.L.F. withdrawal from Iceland. — Admiralty's 1805/11. Provided 4th M.L.Flotilla are ready to sail by P.M./16 ESCAPADE will be available to provide escort to Scapa. If Flotilla will not be ready to sail by this time request you will sail ESCAPADE on completion of fuelling. (R.A.D. H.F., 0940/15 to A.C.I.C.)

MANXMAN. — Provided MANXMAN arrives in time to complete loading p.m./16. Request she may be sailed early a.m./17 to arrive Plymouth by 1500/17. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1333/15 to N.O.i/c Milford Haven.)

GARLAND. — With reference to C. in C. W.A. 1015A/15. Request GARLAND may be allowed to return to Greenock before joining convoy in order that full ship's company (? may be embarked.) (PIORUN, 1515A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

TRIDENT. — TRIDENT sails Polyarno 1830/16 for patrol between 20° E. 24° 40' E. routed 72° 12' N. to arrive Eastern half area 18/9. TIGRIS leaves patrol P.M./18 through 72° 30' N. 23° E. to arrive (group missing) P 21/9. Admiralty pass to other addressees. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 1801C/15.)

### Operations.

SEALION. — A. On completion of operation "Foremost" proceed to patrol in Bay of Biscay South Zone.
B. S.B.R. arranged in Area 56 from 0001A/17 till further notice.
(F.O.S., 1042A/15 to SEALION.)

ATHERSTONE. — My 1753A/8. ATHERSTONE is being temporarily retained for special operations. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1103A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

A/S Patrol. — Cancel my 1803A/9. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1136A/15 to X.D.O. East.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation J.R.

Your 2203A/14. V.A. Dover is already informed of the special nature of this operation.
(D.O.D.(H), 1325A/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Preparative J.R. 1830/15.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1717A/15.)

Return Convoy "Dervish".

Re sailing.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1340A/15.)
See Operations Volume.

Operation "Gauntlet".

Request express to trawlers my appreciation their good services during operation "Gauntlet".
(C. in C. H.F., 1429A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Task Unit 4.1.2.

Task Unit 4.1.2. of HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON and GLEAVES ordered to operate as submarine hunting group aided by patrol planes in area bounded by parallels of latitude 61 to 64 and meridians 23 to 28 from 15 to 20 Sept. Upon return Iceland make ready to escort westbound convoy.
(O.P.N.A.V., 1521Z/15.)

Convoy P.Q.1.

Is it intended that any of the escort for the convoy P.Q.One should remain at Archangel during the turn round period.
(Miles, 1528C/15.)

Escorts of Channel Convoys.

Revised orders for stationing during dark hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 1700A/15.)
See Lion Copy.

ARGUS.

To ferry Naval aircraft to Gibraltar. Arrangements.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1847A/15.) See Operations Volume.

A/S Patrol.

Sail available motor launch to carry out A/S patrol between 058° 30' N. and 059° 00' N. and 008° 30' W. and 009° 30' W. until further orders. S.O. to order patrol to harbour if weather becomes unsuitable.
(C. in C. W.A., 1904A/15 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols & R/C's.

"Fate V" will be flown daylight hours today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0214/15.)
Following P.R.U's now flying.
1. Oslo - Kristiansand.
2. Aalborg - Aarhus.
3. Bergen - Haugesund.
"Hornli" and "Trost" will be flown at 1400.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1150/15.)

Re-operating night fighters near Harwich.

Your A.157 of 13/9. My 1012/5/4 confirmed that Dusk Patrols could operate over Thames estuary above 5000 ft. Is it now desired that low limit for night fighters shall be reduced to 3000 ft. This reduction can be accepted east of a line Warden Point - Shoeburyness and area can be extended to include Harwich area provided fighters do not approach within 4 miles of Landguard Point in any direction. This radius from Landguard Point will keep fighters clear of Harwich balloon barrage and the ships there that are capable of engaging aircraft at greater heights than 3000 ft.
(C. in C. Nore, 1540A/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

Control in Iceland.

O/326 15/9. With effect from a date in immediate future Iceland will cease to be under the operational and administrative control of No.15 Group and will come for all purposes under Coastal Command Headquarters.
(H.Q.C.C. 1930/15.)

Enemy Air Operations.

?

Your 0347A/15. Tugs are being sent from Yarmouth Fighter protection codeword "Alpha".
(C. in C. Nore, 0543A/15 to MALLARD.)

VINGA.

Norwegian Tanker. Bombed 0820/15 in 58° 1' N. 13° 20' W. Damaged CAMPBELTOWN picked up 29 survivors, 4 seriously injured, 8 killed.
(VINGA T.O.R. 0822/15, CAMPBELTOWN 1230A/15, 1425A/15, 1458/15, 1515A/15.)
Detail two corvettes to assist CAMPBELTOWN standing by tugs are being sent. On relief by corvettes CAMPBELTOWN proceed to rejoin convoy. Survivors should be transferred if conditions are suitable.
(C. in C. W.A., 1520A/15, to HEATHER, CAMPBELTOWN, 1851A/15 to HERMIONE.)

/ZWARTE.....

MOST SECRET

15.9.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

VINGA.
Contd.

ZWARTE ZEE proceeded from Greenock 1735A to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557A/15, 2055A/15, ZWARTE ZEE, 1735A/15.)
Re landing injured.
(C. in C. W.A., 1646A/15 to CAMPBELTOWN, CAMPBELTOWN 1750A/15.)
1 corvette only is required to stand by VINGA and ZWARTE ZEE and escort them to harbour. After meeting CAMPBELTOWN the other corvette is to proceed forthwith to join S.C.42 in position given in my 1917A/15. Report name of corvettes detailed for each duty.
(C. in C. W.A., 2156A/15 to HEATHER.)

Convoy "Camel".

Help Convoy "Camel" in 51° 59' N. 5° 50' W. Course and speed of Convoy 086° 7 knots.
(Convoy "Camel", 1950/15.)

Convoy E.C.72.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Yield" in position PCRU 155.
(WALLACE, 2010.)
My 2010. 1 JU.88. No damage seen.
(WALLACE, 2018/15.)

Mining.

PONTFIELD.

Following has been read. S O S de PONTFIELD. Heavy explosion sinking 0128/15, no position given.
(Lands End Radio, 0237/15, Opnav 1855Z/15.)
PONTFIELD broken in two remaining aflost in 053° 03'00" N. 001° 20'30" E. MALLARD and TURQUOISE standing by. NEIL MACKAY proceeding with survivors. Request Tug and fighter protection at daylight.
(MALLARD, 0347A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)
Departure DIVERSION and KROOMAN in company at 0628 to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0630A/15.)
Departure Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER at 0715A. With salvage officer and gear on board.
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 0720A/15.)
Position 52° 57'30" N. 01° 08' E. Tugs have stern portion of PONTFIELD in tow proceeding to Yarmouth Salvage Officer in Charge. Fore portion sinking approx. 53° 00' N. 01° 17' E. MALLARD, TURQUOISE served as escort. Request instructions.
(MALLARD, 1210A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Your.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

PONTFIELD. Contd.

Your 1210A return to Harwich. TURQUOISE remain with tow.
(C. in C. Nore, 1417A/15 to MALLARD.)
Departure Salvage vessel NESSUS at 1607A/15 to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1700A/15.)

Operations B. & C.

Your 1647A/12. Short titles for Operations B and C are JT and JU respectively.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1113A/15 to Admty.)

Operation Q.L.(2)

To take place 16/9. Details.
(C. in C. Nore, 1508A/15.)
See Operations Volume.

Operation N.L.2.

Intend to carry out tonight. Details.
(V.A. Dover, 1234A/15.)
See Operations Volume.

Tug mined in Clyde.

One Tug blown up in Dalmuir Basin. Two other Tugs damaged, suspected mine. River Clyde closed both ways to all traffic.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1717A/15.)
My 1717/15. River Clyde now open to traffic, except for entry into Dalmuir Basin.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1756A/15.)
My 1717/15. No mine was reported within one mile of Dalmuir Basin during the May attacks by which date mine watching had been much improved compared to previous occasions. Former attacks occurred on 13th and 14th March and on 7th and 8th April. It is therefore probable that the mine which exploded today was laid not later than 8/4. Details. Casualties (all civilians)
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2256A/15.)

Humber.

Mine exploded by L.L. Trawlers 1039/15 in 095° Humber L.V. 9.4 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 1815/15.)

Portsmouth.

Details of 1 magnetic mine, detonated in 105° Nab Tower 6 miles at 1127/15.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1847A/15.)

S.N.23B.

Departure Port ZA PORT QUEBEC and NEWARK.
(N.O.I.C. Port ZA, 1954/15.)

/QZX 466.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 15.9.1941. Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining - Contd.

QZX.466. QZX.466 has been searched without result by British minesweepers and declared open by Russians.
(ELECTRA, 2006C/15.)

### Enemy Intelligence.

Cruiser & damaged Transport. Cruiser observed moving quickly north at Helsingborg 1445 hours. Badly damaged transport moving slow south stopped there 16 hours.
(B.C. Goteborg, 1645/15.)

Main units. Today's P.R.U's.
(D.D.I.C. 2353A/15.)
See Lion Copy.

### Miscellaneous.

Iceland (C), berthing, arrangements for H.F. A.C.I.C. 1938/13 berthing requirements considered necessary to be available for Home Fleet are for one capital ship, one aircraft carrier, 2 large cruisers and 6 destroyers additional to requirements of Western Approaches.
(C. in C. H.F., 1431A/15.)

### Casualties and Defects.

ISAAC SWEERS, BROCKLESBURY. In collision. No major damage, minor damage only to BROCKLESBURY.
(BROCKLESBURY, 0145A/15.)
Request ISAAC SWEERS may be instructed to signal brief report including statement whether situation report in my 1718/14 was received.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1018/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

MONKSHOOD. Being towed into Oban by Tug SECURITY with main engine defects estimated to take 5 days.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 0455A/15, 1220A/15.)

VIBRAN. Your 1129Z/15. Navy Call B B G G P L I Y B L I Y B Broadcast 1322, 1335, 1736 G.M.T. No acknowledgment received from vessel.
(Wick Radio, 1129Z/15 to Admty.)

GRAPH. HECLA reports GRAPH today carried out successful trials under way of engine motors and steering. Gyro compass is now entirely satisfactory, ends.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2114/15 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.7.
AURICULA
VIOLET.

Cancel my 1440A/12. Intend to sail AURICULA and VIOLET as additional Escort O.S.7. fuelling at Azores.
(C. in C. W.A. 1134A/15 to Admty., etc.)

S.C.41.

Has arrived safely except 1 ship a straggler, torpedoed. 35 British, 25 Allied and 2 neutral ships. Cargoes.
(D.S. 741.)

S.D.
Convoys.

Your 2119A/13 concurred. Request that S.D. route be sent within 24 hours of arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1544/15 to Admty. etc.)

Fishing
Vessels.

Confusion is sometimes caused owing to fishing vessels of different nationalities having the same or similar names. When mentioning a fishing vessel of any kind, the Port Distinguishing Letters and Fishing Numbers should be given in addition to the name.
(D.T.D., 1800A/15 A.Z. Message 527A 2.)

Destinations.

Attention is called to my 1752/23/3 which emphasised that ships are to be sailed for precise destinations.
A ship on the high seas not knowing what port to make for is forced to incur an unnecessary risk. S.S. AMBERTON is now in that situation.
(D.T.D., 1814A/15 to N.C.S.O's.)

S.D.
Convoys.

Your 2119A/13, concur as it is considered that C. in C. Western Approaches has later information of the U-Boat situation.
(C. in C. W.A. 1858A/15 to Admty.)

H.X.150.

C. in C. W.A. 1451A/15. Onward escort for H.X.150 will be as arranged in C.C.N.F. 0237Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.) The question as to which of these ships will return to Newfoundland will be decided later.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2257A/15 to C. in C. W.A., C.C.N.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

INGHAM. U.S.C.G. INGHAM directed proceed route suggested your 0123Z/13 departing Lisbon 15/9 at 1400 estimated 19 knots to be made good until reaching 30th/Meridian and 17 knots thereafter. Admty. pass to F.O.C.N.A. (Gibraltar) for additional action. (Opnav 01152/15 to Admty.).

PROTEUS. Report P.C. and S. forthwith. No reply to my 2136A/14 received. Catalina aircraft and one destroyer leave Gibraltar at dawn to search along your track. (F.O.C.N.A., 0236A/15 to PROTEUS).
Cancel my 2000A/14. PROTEUS has returned with W/T defect. (F.O.C.N.A. 0840A/15 to C. in C.Med.)

Operation "Status". Your 2236/10. Escort A/C are ? flying off Homed on carrier. On this occasion W/T conditions very bad and escort well separated.
(2) With consumption figures available for time it was not justifiable retain spare escort until second flight Hurricanes could be ranged and started, as this left no margin for unforeseen accidents or delay while flying off.
(3) Hudsons referred to are those with extra tanks which made passage Bathurst from Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 0947A/15 to Admty.)

German Aircraft. New types, may attack Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1141A/15) See Lion Copy.

NINA (Portuguese) Arrival 1400 ALOUETTE, departure 1546 SCOTTISH to patrol and endeavour to intercept Portuguese schooner NINA off Viana thence Y.1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1650A/15 to Admty.)

Operation "Halberd". S.O. Force H., 1659A/15 to V.A. Malta. (See Operations Volume.)

Rio Strait. Your 1740/6 (re no engine or engine spare parts for submarine in CONTREMAESTRE CASADO) Informed that used motor is Ex Submarine intended for standby in new Naval Base at this Port. (Las Palmas, 1700/15 to N.A. Madrid).

/CROOME.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic-Contd.

CROOME.
HIGHLANDER.

Repairs to CROOME cannot be completed before "Halberd". Can HIGHLANDER be retained? I appreciate however urgent need for destroyers in Western Approaches. (S.O. Force H., 1734A/15 to Admty.)

Operation "Halberd".

ASD/102, 15/9. If imperative for operation "Halberd" three long range Hudsons might be made available. Signal considered opinion and dates if required. (H.Q.C.C., 1825/15 to 200 Sqdn., amended 1250/16).

Destroyers.

Admty. 1325 (N.T. in W.D.) VIDETTE is quite unreliable as condensors are so defective that trouble ensues whenever she fires a gun or drops a depth charge.
2. She is accordingly being taken in hand for (?retubing) by fleet labour assisted by dockyard and will be out of action until about 6/10.
3. WISHART is in U.K. and DUNCAN only effective destroyer left in 13th D.F. is detailed for employment (?in accordance with) your 1730A/5 (Hush N.T. in W.D.)
4. HIGHLANDER has recently fuelled in Azores so will be unable to remain with H.G. 73 throughout. (?CROOME) in dock approx. date completion 6/10.
5. There will be therefore no destroyer available for any local commitments that may arise or for O.G. convoys. (F.O.C.N.A., 1842A/15 to Admty. etc.)

### South Atlantic.

French Shipping.

Report A.2 that VILLE DE VERDUN, PIERRE L.D. CAP VARELLA, CAP PADARAN will leave shortly from Diego Suarez escorted by French Sloop D'IBERVILLE for Indo China. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1043B/15 to Admty. etc.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

Admty. 1036A/8 and D. of S.T. 1733A/12. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will be available from 40° W. speed 14 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 2107N/15 to Admty. etc.)

/Convoys.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic-Contd.

**Convoys.** Your 2233/5/9. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and SOBIESKI arrival has coincided with W.S.11 and other convoys in port. They cannot be fuelled and watered to sail before 19th. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 2157N/15 to D. of S.T.)

### Mediterranean.

**PHOEBE.** Admty. 1343A/5. Temporary repairs to render PHOEBE fit for ocean passage will be completed during second week of October. Suggested that if replacements of gunnery, electrical and other material can be made available at Durban in time, repairs should be undertaken there, thus effecting a substantial saving of time over passage to and from U.S.A. (C. in C. Med., 09090/15 to Admty.)

**Alexandria Raid.** Air raid 0400 to 0500/15, 5 enemies, 15 H/E. 3 sticks on land 2 in sea, civilian casualties. Balloons, searchlights, smoke guns, 8 fighters no interceptions. Cloud 1. (R.A. Alexandria, 10110/15 to Admty.)

**Bulgarian Ships, Dardanelles.** My 1130/13. Possible passage of Straits by 12 Bulgarian vessels, which rumour alleges bought from Italy, is now discussed in Turkish press. Conclusion drawn that Bulgaria being at war with Greece, ships cannot pass, (nevertheless?) doubtful on subject. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1040/15 to S.O.I. Med.)

**Suez Raid.** Egypt night 13/14. Suez bombed by about 18 enemy aircraft. No service damage but 1 officer and 7 O.R. wounded. 6 Hurricane sorties sighted no enemy aircraft.

**Alexandria Raid.** Night 14/15. Alexandria bombed by 5 enemy aircraft, slight damage resulted. 7 Hurricane sorties made no interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1059/15).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.9.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Air R/C. | Available R/C 1 Blenheim only. This A/C arriving vicinity of Zante at 1100B/15 then searching to 8 knots furthest on position for ship sailing from Brindisi on evening of 14th. (V.A. Malta, 1103B/15 to C. in C. Med.) |
| MUREFTE. | Sinking (N.O.I.C. Syria, 1105C/15) See U/Boat Campaign. |
| Suez Mines. | C. in C. Med. 1850/25/7 weekly report. 5 U.X.O.S. remain in Suez Bay and 2 U.X.MS. in canal at K.m. 160.6 and 161, parachutes seen with both canal mines. Mine at 161 is located and it is hoped to recover it. No result from L.L. or S.A. or Sammy Minesweeping operation nor from diving and trawling in addition on mine at 160.6. 2. Traffic in canal was resumed 14/9. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1212C/15). |
| TORBAY. | Proceed forthwith to establish Patrol between 037° 00' and 038° 30' and West of 025° 40' operate in accordance with memorandum S.O. 34. Many ships reported loading Military stores and personnel at Piraeus. (Capt. S.1., 1252C/15 to TORBAY). |
| Port T. | Arrangements, GLENROY, etc. (C. in C. Med., 1259C/15) See Operations Volume. |
| R/C Taranto, Palermo. | From enlargement of photographs my 1816/12 for 2 Italian Battleships LITTORIO and one CAVOUR in outer harbour read one Italian Battleship LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR. (V.A. Malta, 1606B/15 to Admty., C. in C. Med.) |
| Benghazi bombed. | Night 13/14, 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour, 1 bomb falling near ship at Outer Mole. One of these Wellingtons also bombed Barce, destroying fuel storage building. 2 Blenheims carried out offensive sweep for enemy shipping in area 100 miles north of Benghazi, No shipping seen. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1608/15). |
| ST. CASRIEUC. FRONSAC. (French). | Departures 13/9 and 15/9. (Barcelona, 1653/15 to M. of W/T). |

/Minesweepers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.9.1941. Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Minesweepers for Persian Gulf.** Your 16200/8. As minelaying threat to Persian Gulf may occur at very short notice, necessary to augment sweeping force there now. A further 11 fitted 'LL' vessels should arrive Alexandria within next 30 days. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1719A/15 to C. in C. Med.)

**Enemy Ships and Mines.** Expect at 0500B/17 2 ships on course 200° will arrive position 311° from 032° 07' 020° 04' distance unknown. These ships and one destroyer probably in 038° 00' 020° 00' at 1100B/15. Steering 160° 10 knots. THUNDERBOLT reports mines laid between estimated positions 032° 16' 019° 53' and 032° 17' 019° 58'. (Capt. S.1., 2220C/15 to THRASHER).

**Port and Base Resources.** Proposals from U.S.A. for provision in Middle East. (W.O., 2340/15 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.

### East Indies.

**Force T.** (?) Force T left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0515Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

**Port T.** C. in C. China's 0351/15. Commander 1st R.M. Group M.N.B.D.O. states M.N.B.D.O. operation at Port T cannot be undertaken unless both GLENROY and CLAN FORBES remain there throughout the initial states. (C. in C. E.I., 1414Z/15 to Admty.)

**Caspian.** A.C.N.S. (F) 1720A/15. See Operations Volume.

**Ceylon Stocks;** Your 0726/11. Approved. Action to be taken locally regarding certain stocks. Additional quantities of victualling stores normally supplied from U.K. will be shipped in due course. (4th S.L., 1854A/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

| | |
|---|---|
| LE CONTE DE LISLE. (French). | Left due Shanghai 18th. (N.C.S.O. Manila 0243Z/15). |
| GLASGOW. | My 0723/2. GLASGOW completed satisfactorily after repairs trial. Speed 23½ knots without paravane. (C. in C. China, 0413Z/15 to Admty.) |
| HONGHIN. | HONGHIN sank 0200/15 at Laidup Moorings, Singapore Harbour. Presume sudden leakage but cannot yet confirm. (Superintendent's estimate cost lifting). Suggest we endeavour sell wreck as she lies for Underwriters' credit. Cargo aboard Nil. (N.C.S.O. Singapore 0739Z/15 to Admty.) |
| Miri Precautions. | Your 1630/29 and my 0439/31. LEES, Masters, TOONE returned from Miri reports as follows. (C. in C. China, 0901Z/15 to Admty.) |
| Christmas Island. | Charts affected Nos. G.41A and 3504. Position 10° 30' S. 105° 40' E. (approx) Instructions for vessels approaching Island (A) no vessel is to approach the island between sunset and sunrise. (B) No vessel is to approach within 2½ miles of the island until permission to do so has been given by the Signal Station at Smith Point. (C) Any vessel disregarding the above is liable to be fired on without warning. (R.A. Malaya, 0911Z/15 to China Stn.) |
| S.S. JERSEY. | Have you any news of JERSEY from Aden due 11/9? (D.T.D. 1225A/15 to N.C.S.O. Singapore) Reply: 0229/16. |
| BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE. (French). | Departure Trufillo. (Shanghai, 2359Z/15 to M. of W.T. |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

PASTEUR. — Your 1513/13. Assumption confirmed. (D.S.T. 0256A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. C.F.2. — Adverse winds have been met by convoy C.F.2 and R/V with A/S escort being now in 026° 30' W. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will be at limit of fuel endurance on reaching Bermuda. Continuous bad weather may therefore render it necessary to proceed to St. John's N.F. for fuel in absence of other instructions. NEWCASTLE transmitting this message after parting company with convoy. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 0955Z/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

O-WE-RA Examination vessel. — Regret to report a fire occurred in stokehold of O-WE-RA during fuelling operation on 10/9. Time required to make good damage approx. 14 days subject to satisfactory test of boiler. Cause of fire is subject of board enquiry ordered by C. in C. A. and W.I. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1017Q/15 to Admty.)

FORTH programme. — C.C.N.F. 1348Z/14. Concur. (F.O.S., 1058A/15 to Admty.)

LA CARRIERE. — Called here for instructions yesterday en route to Barbados. Five of crew refused to take ship on. Arrested these men who received sentences to-day, 3 ten weeks jail, 2 six weeks. Ship proceeding to Barbados delay 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1242Q/15 to Admty.)

S/M's working up in U.S.A. — B.A.R.M. 1400B/12, concur generally in these arrangements. (F.O.S., 1307A/15 to Admty.)

CARADOC. — Bermuda departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1002Q/13. (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. A.W.I., 1603Q/15 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE. — Your 0942Q/13. Concur. NEWCASTLE is to disembark her Walrus at Bermuda. (D.N.A.D. 1605A/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CALIFORNIA. — Can be received on 22/9. (B.A.R.M.1702R/15 to R.A. B.B.S.)

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

TRUANT. (A) Intend to sail TRUANT at 1200Z/19 (route). (C) A.O.C. E.A.C. is requested to arrange T.B.R. thirty miles (group missing ?either) side of route in para (A) from St. Johns to 43° W. from 1200Z/19 to 2200Z/21. (D) TRUANT has been informed she will meet no friendly submarine on A. and W. I. station. (C.C.N.F., 1744Z/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

RODNEY. Bermuda departure RODNEY in accordance with my 0942Q/13. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1803Q/15 to Admty.)

FORTH. Your 1348Z/14. This programme cannot be approved until definite approval for British submarines to work up from an American port is received. 2. B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 refers. 3. Request you will signal revised programme when approval is received. C.O.A.C. pass to FORTH. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1925A/15 to C.C.N.F.)

Greek ships to operate under French Flag. (v) Dakar 12/9 A.1. The Director of Maritime Transport has informed Greek Consort that French Admiralty intended to operate following Greek ships under French flag: MOUNT PRIONAS, CAP CORSO, AFROESSA, MOUNT ITHOME, ADOLF I, CHANDRIS. Repeated to S.O. (I) Freetown and S.O. (I) Gibraltar.
(vi) Dakar 13/9 A.O.
MONTAIGNE, CONDE, CLEVENNES, LE GRAND QUERVILLE and CAPITAINE LE DIABAT left for Casablanca p.m./12. They may have been joined by CHEF MECANICIEN ARMAND BLANC. Repeated to S.O.(I) Freetown and S.O.(I) Gibraltar. (B.N.L.O. Washington 2015R/15 to Adty.)

STRATHEDEN. Your 1733A/12. Beatty asks whether possible to load any cargo on STRATHEDEN at Halifax and if so for what ports. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2032Z/15 to D. of S.T.).

H.X. 150. Local A/S escort H.M. Canadian Ships ANNAPOLIS, BRANDON, ALGOMA to western R/V in 055° W. ANNAPOLIS returning to Halifax. Corvette to St. John's N.F. B.A.D. pass to Opnav. (C.O.A.C., 2047Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

| | |
|---|---|
| Free French Ships, Signals. | My 0441Z/6/8. Can reply now be given re secret call signs for Free French Merchant ships? (A.C.N.B., 1146Z/15 to Admty.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

NEWBURY.

Following received from Camperdown addressed C.O.A.C. Halifax (begins). Intercepted on 500 Kcs at 0655 G.M.T. from Cape Race "SSSS NEWBURY 54.39 N. 28.04 W. Torpedoed 0552/15. Due to heavy static ship not heard directly at Camperdown therefore no bearing obtained. (Halifax N.S. T.H.I. 0440/15) (NEWBURY, 0552/15).
British, 5102 tons, left Belfast 8/9 for Buenos Aires with coal. Had been in Convoy O.N.14. (D.S.741).
Proceed to assist NEWBURY torpedoed in 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. at 0552/15. (C. in C. W.A. 0739A/15 to ARAB).
Your 1720A/15 (N.T. in W.D.) Continue search for NEWBURY survivors as long as fuel permits. Report your position and limit of endurance. (C. in C. W.A. 2125A/15 to ARAB).
Cancel my 2125A/15. (C. in C. W.A. 2217A/15 to ARAB).
Following intercept from ARAB addressed C. in C. W.A. repeated HEATHER (Begins) Unable pass B.N. 851 to O.N.14. Your 0739A/15 my position 55.28 N. 20.30 W. 4½ days fuel remaining, request immediate instructions 0815A/15 (Ends). ALISMA detached all to-day endeavouring to pass this signal. Your 1022A/15 P.C. and S. of O.N. 15 at 2100A/15 55.45 N. 26.00 W. Weather report. (KEPPEL, 2130A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
Detail 1 trawler to proceed forthwith to assistance of NEWBURY torpedoed in 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. at 0552/15. Trawler detailed is to report name when well clear of convoy. Remaining corvettes and trawlers are to sweep through this position when returning to harbour after convoy disperses. (C. in C. W.A. 2234A/15 to KEPPEL, ALISMA, DIANELLA).

S.C.42. (attacked 11/9 etc.)

Following received from Opnav "Ref. Admty. 2341A/14 a single destroyer from escort for WHEELER, DALLAS, and ROANOKE has been directed conduct search East Coast Greenland between latitudes 61° and 62°. When search is completed destroyer has been directed resume escorting". (Spenavo, 0635/15 to Admty.) (D.O.D.H., 1646A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0635/15. Please pass following to Opnav "Thank you. Your help is much appreciated". (A.C.N.S. (H) 1806A/15 to Spgnavo).
Arrived (CGQN) (No trace in Shipping Lists). with TAHCHEE. (A.C.I.C. 1845/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 2118/14. Following 95 survivors arrived today. In ORILLIA (a) 39 ex BARON PENTLAND. (b) 11 ex WINTERSWIJK. (c) 17 ex TAHCHEE. 28 still on board TAHCHEE. (A.C.I.C., 2205/15 to Admty.)
My 2205 /15. Following 12 D.E.M.S. gunners arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2211/15 to Admty.).

/MUREFTE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.9.1941. Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked-Contd.

MUREFTE. British S.S. MUREFTE sunk by gunfire from enemy S/M at 2220/10 in 034° 12' N. 034° 55' E. Casualties. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 11050/15 to D. of S.T.). (W.D. Note. Lat. differs from former report).

EMPIRE ELLAND. SSSS 54.11 N. 30.17 W. EMPIRE ELLAND sighted submarine at 2000 local time. (Liverpool W/T, 2150/15).

Submarines Reported.

0826 G.C.T. MCDOUGAL, escort CITY OF DALLAS, CITY OF ROANOKE, WHEELER, reports extremely probable contacted Submarine sound at 0826 GCT in 55.23 N., 45.08 W. Ottawa inform O.N.S. Action Spenavo. (Alusna 0505/15 to Admty.)

0552 G.M.T. Ref. Admiralty message AF. position 54° 39' N. 28° 04' W. 0552 G.M.T./15. (D.D.I.C. 0708Z/15 to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

1306 G.C.T. American S.S. DEL RIO 20° 30' N. 72° 30' W. at 1306 G.C.T./15 reports submarine course 285°. Search being made by planes from Guantanamo. (Opnav, 1148/15 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1520A/15)

1410 G.M.T. By D/F at 1410/15 G.M.T. U-boat in approx. 48° 20' N. 9° 40' W. probably inward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1633A/15).

1445. Coast guards report sighting S/M 8 miles east by south of Fair Isle course N.W. speed 10 knots at 1445. Graded C.3. (A.C.O.S. 1650A/15).

1810 G.M.T. By D/F at 1810/15 G.M.T. U/Boat in approx. 49° 40' N. 10° 30' W. probably inward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2017A/15 to SEALION).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.9.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By WINCHELSEA. WINCHELSEA obtained doubtful contact and fired snowflake. WITCH saw torpedo track by light of snowflake subsequently heard hydrophone effect. Contact lost but am continuing (? search). -(WITCH, 0005A/15 to C. in C. W.A.) (C. in C. W.A. 0315A/15 to PIORUN, GARLAND).
My 0005A 15th. Have searched for 2 hours without result. WINCHELSEA must return for fuel and I am returning in accordance with your 2205A/14. Ships are in company. (WITCH 0201A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

By A/C, 1515/14. My 1629A/14. Amended position of U-boat is 055°.58' N. 012° 53' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1322A/15 to PIORUN, GARLAND).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Commencing with H.X.150 leaving Halifax today U.S.A Naval Forces assumed responsibilities for the protection of Trans-Atlantic trade convoys between Western Atlantic ports and the mid-ocean meeting points. Canadian groups, augmented as necessary by R.N. escort vessels, will escort the S.C. convoys. R.N. escort groups will take over the convoys at the meeting points between 30° W., and 26° W., and U.S. escorts will take back the O.N. convoys from these points.

Home Commands.

Owing to air attacks on shipping near the Faeroes all merchant vessels over 500 tons sailing from Kirkwall to Faeroes or Faeroes to U.K. are to be escorted. Northern Patrol trawlers which sail from Kirkwall for patrol 2 or 3 times a week will provide the escorts.

An American Army convoy consisting of approx. 5,000 troops arrived at Iceland (C) today.

German batteries on the French coast fired a few rounds towards Dover between 2111 and 2236, whilst convoy C.W. 50 was passing. No damage or casualties are reported.

British Air Operations.

110 Bomber Command aircraft attacked targets at Hamburg and 43 attacked docks at Le Havre last night. Minor attacks were made on Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, and Kiel.

Blenheims today sank a small reporting vessel 120 miles north of Den Helder.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 2035 today enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs near Dover whilst convoy C.W. 50 was in the South Downs.

Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| Operation S.N.23 B. | PORT QUEBEC escorted by NEWARK laid mines today N.W. of the Butt of Lewis. |
| N.L.2 | Two M.L.'s from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast. |
| A/C mining. | 2 Hampdens laid mines last night off Warnemünde and 2 in the Fehmarn Channel. |
| Thames Estuary. | S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness reports that there was a moderate amount of enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night, but that there is no positive indication of any minelaying. Air Ministry however report that enemy aircraft minelaying was carried out in the Estuary last night. |

S.S. BIRTLEY was mined at Sheringham Buoy about midnight and sank in 53° 3' N., 1° 18' E.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool were re-opened at 1200 today. (See 6/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert.

10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night and report hits on ships alongside Spanish Quay. Two aircraft laid mines in the harbour.

5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night setting on fire a storage tanker, which was still blazing furiously 24 hours later.

Bardia harbour and enemy gun positions near Tobruk were bombed by Naval aircraft.

The enemy have advanced in the area south of Sidi Barrani but withdrew today and the position was re-established. The 7th C.S. and destroyers operated last night off Mersa Matruh.

East Indies.

Red Sea.

NAIAD and GALATEA are proceeding to reinforce COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and PARRAMATTA in the Red Sea owing to enemy air attacks during the flow of vitally important ships. These ships are under the command of C.S.15 who is in charge of protection of shipping in the Gulf of Suez.

China.

A typhoon struck Hong Kong today. Damage to shipping was negligible. Some damage was caused to the mine and indicator loops.

America & West Indies.

Task Group 2.5

A U.S.A. cruiser aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers have left U.S.A. for raider patrol in the Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign.

U-boats were located today by D/F in 70° 41' N., 41° 41' E., and 70° 3' N., 41° 8' E.

Convoy S.C.42.

DOUGLAS reported one ship torpedoed at 2114 in 59° 42' N., 10° W. This was apparently S.S. JEDMOOR which had already once been reported unsuccessfully attacked on 9/9.

Ships Attacked by U/B in Convoy S.C.42, 9/9/41 to 16/9/41.

| Name | Nationality | Date | Result | Tonnage. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BARON PENTLAND. | British | 10/9 | Sunk | 3410 |
| BERURY. | British | ?11/9 | Sunk | 4924 |
| BESTUM. | Norwegian | 11/9 | Arrived Iceland. | 2215 |
| BULYSSES. | British | 11/9 | Sunk | 7519 |
| EMPIRE CROSSBILL. | British | 11/9 | Sunk | 5463 |
| EMPIRE HUDSON. | British | ?10/9 | Sunk | 7465 |
| GARM. | Swedish | 11/9 | Sunk | 1231 |
| GYPSUM QUEEN. | British | 11/9 | Sunk | 3915 |
| JEDMOOR. | British | Attacked 9/9, escaped, torpedoed 16/9. | Sunk | 4392 |
| MUNERIC. | British | 11/9 | Sunk | 5229 |
| REGIN * | Norwegian | ?11/9 | Arrived Loch Ewe. | 1386 |
| SALLY MAERSK. | British | 10/9 | Sunk | 3252 |
| SCANIA. | Swedish | 11/9 | Sunk | 1980 |
| | | | Carried fwd. | 52381 |

/STARGARD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Ships Attacked by U/B in Convoy S.C. 42. 9/9/41 to 16/9/41. Contd

| Name | Nationality | Date | Result | Tonnage. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Brought Forward | 52381 |
| STARGARD. | Norwegian | 10/9 | Sunk | 1114 |
| STONEPOOL. | British | 11/9 | Sunk | 4815 |
| TAHCHEE | British tanker. | 10/9 | Arrived Iceland. | 6508 |
| THISTLEGLEN. | British | 10/9 | Sunk | 4748 |
| VESTLAND * | Norwegian | 10/9 | Arrived in port. | 1934 |
| WINTERSWIJK. | Dutch | 10/9 | Sunk | 3205 |
| | | | | 74705 |
| | | | Tonnage saved. | 12043 |
| | | | Tonnage lost. | 62662 |

* Uncertain whether these ships were actually torpedoed.

EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK straggler on 6/9 was still missing on 24/9.

19 Ships attacked, of which 15 were sunk.

45 Ships of S.C.42 arrived safely. (D.S.746, 20/9).

Convoy O.G.74. — DEPTFORD reports that at 2230A today two torpedoes were fired at the starboard bow escort; ship was not hit. Sweep was carried out without result. Owing to visibility it was considered tha the convoy was not sighted.

PEGASUS (Greek) HJELMAREN (Swedish) sunk. — At 2057A today Swedish S.S. HJELMAREN reported sighting two life boats pulling away from Greek S.S. PEGASUS which was sinking in 54° 31' N., 29° 52' W. PEGASUS had been in O.N.14. It is reported that PEGASUS was torpedoed and subsequently sank. A survivor stated that the U-boat boarded the HJELMAREN and that the latter sank shortly afterwards as the result of an explosion.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Archangel. Requesting certain information. (C. in C. H.F. 0036A/16) and Reply (Miles, Moscow 1736A/16.) See Operations Volume.

BALBOA, BORELAND, GULLMAREN. (Swedish ships) Sailing 16/9 Faeroes for South American Ports are all Class C. (D.E.W.D. 1059A/16 to A.I.G. 23, 38.)

Minesweepers. Your 1340A/12, para.(B). Request remaining 3 ships 6th M.S. Flotilla and STAR OF FREEDOM may be sent to Scapa as soon as practicable.
(ii) My 2155A/9, para.2. Request a 4th M.S. may be transferred to my command to complete escort for convoy PQ 1.
(iii) Your 1629A/14. Request an additional 4 M/S may be taken in hand for conversion.
(C. in C. H.F. 1954A/16 to Adty.)

PRINCE BADOUIN. Admty. 2133A/12, paras.1 and 3. Delete reference to S.S. PRINCE BADOUIN who is being included in the next suitable W.S. convoy for Freetown. She is to be sailed from Freetown independently, her onward passage being expedited as far as possible. (D.O.D.(F) 2343A/16 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Russian Co-operation.

Soviet Naval Authorities report:-
Evacuation of Tallinn was carried out under exceedingly difficult circumstances; 200 ships of all descriptions had to be got away. Total losses incurred consisted of two old destroyers and twelve transports which included various auxiliary vessels. A very large proportion of the crews were saved. In all about 1500 to 2000 men were lost. The islands of Dago, Oesel and Port of Hango are still held by the Russians.
On the 13/9 the Germans attempted to make a landing in force on island of Oesel. Attack was successfully beaten off by coast artillery and units of the Soviet Navy. German attacking force consisted of 6 transports laden with troops, 8 destroyers and 11 M.T.B's, of this number 3 transports each of 8000 tons and one of 4000 tons together with one enemy destroyer were all sunk.
(Miles 1911C/16.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U.S. Co-operation.

American Army convoy approx. 5000 troops arrived 0300/16. (C.O.C. Iceland (C) 1726/16.)

Movements.

A.M.C's. My 1650A/9. Forecast of movements corrected to 15/9. (S.O.W.P. 0930A/16.)

EREBUS. Adty. 0014A/14. Intend sailing EREBUS escorted by INGLEFIELD a.m./18 to join F.S.98 off May Island for onward passage to Chatham. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1145A/16.)

GRAPH. Adty. 1054A/15. (N.T. in W.D.) HECLA reports :- No wireless available. Chart navigation book (s) and instruments special book (s) and recognition signals included. Pyrotechnic will be required. GRAPH should be able to maintain 12 to 14 knots on passage. Destroyer escort essential, ends. Chart signal book (s) recognition signals can be supplied. (A.C.I.C. 1600/16 to Adty.)

TRIDENT. TRIDENT arrives Zone 2A 18/9 routed 72° 12' N. and through 72° 12' N. 25° E.
2. Pages from S.P. 02319 (23) should be retained and are not to be destroyed.
Admiralty pass to TIGRIS in S.P. 02319 (23).
(Br. S.N.O. Murmansk 1831C/16 to TIGRIS.)

4th M.L.F. ESCAPADE escorting 4 minelaying Flotilla left Vestmann Islands 2048A. (Route) Speed 10 knots. (A.C.I.C. 2152A/16 to A.C.O.S.)

EREBUS. Your 1145A/16/9 and Adty. 1105B/24/7. In view of EREBUS low speed it is not considered desirable for her to pass through area south of Sheringham in dark hours. Request therefore that EREBUS may be sailed to arrive off May Island at 0600/19. 2 destroyers fitted S A from this command will be sailed to R/V with EREBUS off May Island at this time whence they will form escort to Sheerness. Request you arrange fighter protection for whole passage. (C. in C. Nore 2250A/16 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Task Unit 4.1.2

Opnav. reports. Task Unit 4.1.2 of HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON and GLEAVES ordered to operate as submarine hunting group aided by patrol planes in area bounded by parallels of latitude 61 to 64 and meridians 23 to 28 from 15 to 20 September. Upon return Iceland, make ready to escort Westbound convoy. 1521Z/15 ends. (D.C. 0229A/16 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C.in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

S/M's in Far North.

Your 2241C/14. F.S.H. part III refers to initial passage of S/M from U.K. to Polyarno and should now be cancelled. (F.O.S. 1129A/16 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

ESKIMO

Proceed with dispatch to vicinity of Butt of Lewis. Further orders follow report E.T.A. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1350A/16 to ESKIMO.) My 1455A/16. Join Capt. (D) 6. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1856A/16 to ESKIMO.)

D.6 to cover O.N. 16.

R.A.(D) H.F. 1455/16. Owing to uncertain position of S.C.42 and ST. CROIX's report of U-boat in 059° 15' N. 010° 40' W. you should proceed from Butt of Lewis to provide as close cover as circumstances permit to O.N.16 estimated P.C. and S. 2000, 058° 57' N. 008° 00' W. 293° 7 knots. Most likely U-boat threat is from Southward. You should remain with O.N.16 as long as possible returning to Butt of Lewis by 1600 17th. Expect two Hudsons from daylight. (C. in C. W.A. 1803A/16 to Capt. (D) 6.)

A/S patrol.

2 Motor Launches are carrying out A/S patrol between 058° 30' N. 059° 00' N. and 008° 30' W. and 009° 30' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1947A/16 to Capt.(D) 6, Escorts O.N.16.)

M.T.B. patrol.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B.'s is to carry out a patrol tonight Tuesday between Oost Dyck and Kwintebank Buoys. Surface vessels met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. Report M.T.B.'s detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore, 1412A/16 to BEEHIVE.)

/M.C.B.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| M.G.B. patrol. | Patrol tonight Tuesday. Three M.G.B's patrol 10 miles 310° from number 60 Buoy three M.T.B. return Harwich from Eastward daylight Wednesday. (C. in C. Nore, 1443A/16 to Ships employed on East Coast Convoy duties.) |
| A/S patrol. | Available A/S Trawlers are to patrol QZS 271 in company leaving QZS 169 by dark and returning at daylight. Patrol is not to go to Eastward of long. 00° and is to turn to westward before 0400. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1533A/16 to X.D.O.(E)) |
| Murmansk. | B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1817C/16. See Operations Volume. |
| TRIDENT. | My 1801C/15. TRIDENT sailed. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1829C/16.) |
| 75rd A.S. Group. | Signal brief report on endurance of 75rd A.S. Group in light of experience gained in passage of "Dervish". Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (C. in C. H.F. 1951A/16 to ELECTRA.) |
| Soviet operations. | S/M MOLODKI 172 Lieut. Commander Fesoluvich returned Polyarno today with further success. Escorted (?3000) ton loaded transport torpedoed between Kirkenes and Petsamo 1730/14 and sank in 3 minutes. Soviet M.T.B's claim to have torpedoed and (corrupt group) 2 transports off Petsamo night September 14th, 15th. No details to date. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 2225C/15.) |
| Operation J.R. | Request you will cancel operation J.R. Destroyers to revert to normal duties and boiler cleaning as requisite. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2235A/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) |
| Convoy P.Q.1. | Arrangements for sailing to Archangel. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2238A/16) See Operations Volume. Repeating Miles 1528C/15 and asking him to answer this signal through Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2241A/16 to C. in C. H.F.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols. "Cast" "Stab" "Hornli" in operation .
(C. in C. Rosyth 1030/16.)

P.R.U. P.R.U. Kristiansand South Oslo and Aalborg now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/16.)

Bomber Command Operations. Day 15/9. Blenheims located Eastbound convoy of 7 M/Vs escorted by four Flak ships and one Destroyer five miles N.W. of Juist. Attacked M/V of about 3,000 tons with the letters "NORDO SVENSKA" painted on the side. Vessel was later reported in sinking condition. Attacked 2,000 ton M/V claimed as a total loss. Attacked a passenger cargo type ship of 3,500 tons saw 2 x 500 lbs. bombs hit ship is also claimed as total loss. Blenheims bombed a ship of about 1,000 tons lying alongside the Jetty at Haugesund. Much debris was thrown into the air but it was not possible to say whether this was from the ship or the jetty.
Four A/C attacked a large factory on the Western side of Karm Sund from 50 feet. Several direct hits seen. One of these four A/C dropped half its load on the ship and half on the factory.
Night 15/16 Sept. Hamburg and Le Havre Docks were the objectives for a good force of A/C. No cloud and clear starlight over Hamburg but with slight ground haze and excellent visibility at Le Havre enabled very successful attacks to be made. Other targets attacked Bremen by 5 Wellingtons, Wilhelmshaven by 4 A/C and Bremerhaven by 3 A/C. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 1546/16.)

U.S. A/C in Iceland. Request you will ascertain from G.O.C. Iceland whether U.S. Aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British pyrotechnic cartridges and pistols. (D.S.D. 1804A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Air Operations.

VINGA (bombed 15/9.) Have been relieved by HEATHER. 4 volunteers of VINGA's crew remain to handle tug rope. I am proceeding to Londonderry. (CAMPBELTOWN 0800A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Details of survivors. (CAMPBELTOWN 1130/16.)

/Thames

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - contd.

Thames Estuary. There was a moderate amount of enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary between 2020 and 0008 on the night 15th/16th September. This was chiefly over the Southern ends of Black and Barrow Deeps. Several planes were engaged but owing to darkness were only visible for short periods. There was no positive indication of any minelaying. (S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1503/16.)

DARU. PHILANTE reports:-
Convoy H.G.72 attacked by one aircraft at 2047. DARU hit and sank slowly. All saved. BORFAS has Master and 41. LA MALOUINE has 14. Ends. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1522A/16.)
Particulars of survivors. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1521A/16.)

Mining.

BIRTLEY. BIRTLEY mined position Sheringham buoy embarked survivors. Possibility of salvage request tug SHEARWATER standing by. (SHEARWATER 0015/16 to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)
Details of survivors. (SHEARWATER 0045A/16.)
Have sent TANGO back to assist you. (SOUTHDOWN 0140A/16 to SHEARWATER.)
Tug SABINE proceeded from Humber 0150 to assist.
Fighter protection arranged code word "Hurdle". (C. in C. Nore 0145A/16 to SHEARWATER, F.O.Humber 0154A/16.)
BIRTLEY broke back and sank in 053° 05' N. 001° 18' E. Am proceeding Humber with survivors tug not required. (SHEARWATER 0630A/16.)

Tees and Hartlepool. Negative my 1050/6 Ports of Tees and Hartlepool are open from 1200 today. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0952/16.)

Operation H.L.10 B. Intend to carry out operation H.L.10 (B) tonight 16/9. (V.A. Dover 1305A/16.)

/Clyde

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Clyde, mine watching. Ref. My 2256A/15. This regrettable incident draws attention to the paramount importance of accurate mine-watching. I am informed by the Scottish Command that the Home Guard who are at present carrying out this duty with zeal are to be withdrawn on 1/10.
It is understood that Naval Ratings will be sent to the Clyde by the Admiralty as and when available. It is urged that the strongest representation be made to retain the services of the Home Guard until Naval ratings are sufficient in number and adequately trained to give a reasonable measure of security. The majority of the Home Guardsmen concerned have expressed their willingness to continue to mine-watch. F.O.I.C. Greenock is of the same opinion and wishes to be associated with this signal. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1254A/16 to Adty.)

Operation H.F. Operation orders. (C. in C. Plymouth 1308/16.) See Operations Volume.

PONTFIELD (Mined 15/9.) Arrival in roads Tugs DIVERSION, KROOMAN with PONTFIELD in tow escorted by Trawler TURQUOISE. (F.O. i/c Yarmouth 1313A/16.)

Navigation.

B.3 buoy. It is reported that Light on B.3 buoy is now only visible for 5 cables and that visibility is decreasing. Request this may be increased to one and a half miles as originally asked for in my 2311B/24/6. (C. in C. Nore 2305A/16.)

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. ANDREW THOME. Beached South of Britannia Pier Yarmouth, collision damage. (F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1113A/16.)

CLAESJE. Your 2150/12. Owing to engine room defects vessel will not be ready to sail 20th September. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1151A/16 to Adty.)

AFON GWILI. Damaged in collision at 0300 and requires repairs. She is proceeding to Southend. (VORTIGERN 1215A/16, 1325/16.)

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.42 — See U-Boat Campaign. 0924A/16.

W.S.11 X. — 2325A/15, my 1151A/14 and 1745/14 (N.T.of any) LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, ORIBI and ISAAC SWERERS are to top up with fuel at Moville. Capt.(D) Londonderry is to ensure that destroyers can refuel without delay. (C. in C. W.A. 0952A/16 to V.A.2., N.O.i/c Londonderry.)

Escorts to and from Faroes. — In view air attacks on shipping in vicinity of Faroes I have given orders that all M/Vs sailing from Kirkwall to Faroes or from Faroes to U.K. are to be escorted. Northern Patrol Trawlers sailing from Kirkwall for Patrol 2 or 3 times a week provide opportunity for escort without undue delay, and I suggest less M/Vs from East Coast Ports for Faroes should call at Kirkwall for onward routeing to enable escort to be arranged. Foregoing does not apply to Fishing Vessels and does not affect existing arrangements for escort of important vessels. (A.C.O.S. 1206A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Your 1206A/16. Concur. Authorities in Rosyth command are being ordered to comply.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1740/16 to A.C.O.S.) Orders (C. in C. Rosyth 1832/16.)

Signalling. — H/F communication from merchant ships to shore not satisfactory. Proposals. (D.S.D. 1233A/16) See Lion Copy.

H.X.147. — Met as arranged, one straggler. All ships arrived. Escort and Commodore report exceptionally good convoy with regard to station keeping and lack of smoke. Calm weather with much fog. (D.T.D. 1407A/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Numbers and cargoes (D.S.741)

O.N.16. — Normal night alteration of course is not to be carried tonight owing to proximity of S.C.42. (C. in C. W.A. 1716A/16 to Escort O.N.16 for Commodore.)

S.C.44 — After landing survivors refuel and proceed to meet S.C.44. Meet signal following. Report time of sailing. (C. in C. W.A., 1747A/16 to CAMPBELTOWN) W.D. Note: Survivors from Norwegian VINGA, bombed 0920/15.

P.Q.1 — Admty. 2238/16. (See Operations)

/O.N.16

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd

O.N.16. My 1824A/16 not to Capt.(D). As positions of R.C.N. ships which have been escorting S.C.42 are not accurately known request you will detail 2 R.C.N. Destroyers and 4 R.C.N. Corvettes to escort O.N.16 to Westward. Further signal will be made regarding O.N.17. Report names of ships detailed. (C. in C. W.A. 2321A/16 to A.C.I.C.) D.16 to give close cover, see Home Commands, Operations.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Raiders.

Intelligence. My 1923A/9. Not to Alusna or Spenavo.
1. On 25/8 U.S. LONE STAR sighted suspicious tanker in 25° 53' S. 04° 19' W. This area used by NORDMARK, SCHEER, 33 and 10 for R/V's in Jan. and Feb., 1941. My 1825A/26/8 para. 2 may refer.
2. No raider incidents in Indian Ocean since end of June.
3. SILVAPLANA made QQQQ at 0800/11 in 26° 16' S. 164° 25' W. Cancelled in P/L at 1055 but did not reply when instructed to cancel in M.N.C. May have been attacked by Galapagos Raider. DEVON overdue at Auckland from Panama. Bearing of 328° from Singapore at 1658/15 on 12,700 kc/s may have been from this raider.
4. RIO BRANCHO arrived safely.
(D.D.I.C. 1801A/16 to C's in C. etc.)

### North Atlantic.

CAMPANULA collision. CAMPANULA sustained following damage after collision Portuguese Trawler in fog 0011A/4 in 035° 40' N. 009° 40' W. Ship seaworthy. (FARNDALE 0948/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

0.24. Report. Netherlands S/M O (?24) reports (a) sinking 1200 ton sailing vessel and probably sinking escorted 6000 ton ship details follow in paragraph (C) and (D). (B) Sighting of another convoy and single ships indicate possibility of traffic route from Genoa run close east of Capraia Island thence between Elba and Pianosa. (C) Admty. "A" 529 (i) Italian barque (ii) laden (iii) 043° 55' 009° 21' course-degrees crossing (iv) sunk by gunfire 6/9.
(D) (i) Italian ship 6000 tons (ii) laden (iii) 042° 48' 009° 58' course-degrees 80 (iv) attacked 9/9 one torpedo heard to hit ship, seen heavily listed (? and) sink by stern, not seen 3 hours later. (F.O.C.N.A. 1536A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/LE TRAIT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

LE TRAIT (French) — Arrival 15th at Viana French S.S. LE TRAIT from Lisbon in ballast to load timber for Casablanca under French Portuguese barter agreement. Ship understood to have brought phosphates from Casablanca to Setubal. (R.O. Oporto, 1219/16, 1649/16).

HIGHLANDER. — Your 1734A/15. Regret HIGHLANDER cannot be retained as Western Approaches are being taxed to their limit. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1329A/16 to S.O. Force H.)

Destroyers. — Your 1842A/15. Either VIMY or WILD SWAN may be retained until completion of VIDETTE.
2. A.M. 1433A/10. Route to Freetown is to be arranged so that it cannot be construed as a menace to French West Africa. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1330A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GERMANIA. German. — Strong indications may sail very shortly. Vessel is in ballast and has approx. 400 tons fuel oil as bunkers. (Teneriffe, 1635/16 to Admty.)

MARON. — Owing to main engine defects MARON will not be ready to sail until about 25/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 1922A/16 to Admty.)

French Ships. — Gibraltar 16/9 1230, Eastbound 1651, French Destroyer TEMPETE, French ships MAROC, PARAME PONTET-CANET, all laden, ST. MARCEL, light, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1955A/16).

H.G. 74. — Estimated 1300A/26 (as received) DEPTFORD, ROCKINGHAM, AUDACITY and 36th Group of Corvettes will bring back H.G. 74. Detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C. W.A. 2016A/16 to DEPTFORD).
Request you will issue necessary orders for DEPTFORD, ROCKINGHAM, AUDACITY and 36th Group corvettes to bring back H.G. 74.
(C. in C. W.A., 2021A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

"Q" Report. Following has been read. QQQQ De GTGG (MARTAND) 32.32. S. 15.24 E. suspicious vessel. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 0847Z/16).

WINDSOR CASTLE. Your 1307/19. Following summary of collision damage WINDSOR CASTLE. My 1126/13 refers. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0922B/16 to S.S.T.O. Bombay) W.D. Note:- WINDSOR CASTLE in collision with WARWICK CASTLE at 0025B/7/8 when in convoy W.S.10, but continued with convoy.

Spanish Schooner. Following is repeated for information:- (? Addressed S.O. (I) Freetown) From British Consul (? Cape Verde Is.). Ref. my 1017/13. Spanish sailing ship mentioned, now at Santa Maria Sal Island, stated detained owing to the manifest irregular, cargo about 60 tons aviation petrol, 20 other cases, contents unknown. (? S.O.I. Freetown, 1026/16 to Admty.)

A/C over Ascension. Presume Swordfish over Ascension 15/9 was from EAGLE. This caused some stir and should not be done unless good reason. Must ask exactly what package dropped contained as this is now in dispute in the Island and to whom addressed. Report on arrival. (C. in C. S.A., 1117N/16 to EAGLE).

TOMBOUCTOU explosion. My 1637/13. Survivors and Master agree that cause of explosion was spontaneous combustion. Damage to cargo small. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1657/16 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

EASTERN PRINCE. C.M.19. My 1402/10, para. 2, EASTERN PRINCE defects cannot be completed in time and W.S.10X is proceeding without her. Your 1816/9, request permission to retain EASTERN PRINCE to augment C.M. 19. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1743B/16 to D. of S.T.) No objection (D.S.T. 0139A/18).

SANDAR. VANJA. A.M. 1654A/25 and 1752A/28. Should either SANDAR or VANJA arrive Freetown too late to sail in S.L. 88 two cutters are to escort both tankers either to catch up S.L. 88 or direct to Gibraltar. Report E.T.A. Gibraltar to Admiralty as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2048A/16 to C. in C. S.A.)

/U/B .....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.-Contd.

U/B Threat, EAGLE, DORSETSHIRE. It appears probable that U-boats now operating in area neighbourhood of 3° N. to 8° S. and 30° W, if they remain any length of time, will fuel from supply ship at sea either in relatively calm area about 007° N. 048° W. or about latitude 8° N. further to eastward. Suggest former more likely. If there is any indication of this could recall EAGLE and DORSETSHIRE from St. Helena and provide 2 Destroyers and Oiler or an A.M.C. with 2 Corvettes for Eastern Part. Request early information if such requirements considered likely. DORSETSHIRE reports took 4 days in weather prevailing before completing with fuel from Oiler ECHODALE in the Area about 007° N. 025° W. Cannot provide more that 2 Corvettes under present circumstances. (C. in C. S.A., 2123A/16 to Admty.)

### Mediterranean.

DERNA (Italian). Probably left Barcelona night of 10/9 or 11/9 for Genoa. (D.S. 742, 16/9).

Italian M/V's Salonika. Press report of 15/9 states one Italian transport sunk and another seriously damaged by fire within last 3 days by Greek irregulars in Salonika Harbour. (D.S. 742).

Situation report 149. Western Desert. Enemy have advanced in the area South of Sidi Barrani and Army preparing to withdraw. Position not yet clear and latest report indicates advance was limited to R/C in force. 7th C.S. and (?2) Destroyers operating in vicinity of Mersa Matruh tonight 15/16.
2. Palestine (? Coast). Light forces continue A/S sweeps.
3. Alexandria. Air raid night of 14/15, no important damage. (C. in C. Med., 0040B/16 to Admty.)

/Tobruk.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Tobruk mines. Mine-sweeping Summary week-ending 15/9. One minelaying raid, two mines spotted in harbour, one detonated ashore landings, one type C buried in sand. One type C countermined ashore, one C countermined off No. 4 jetty. (B.N.O. Tobruk 0914B/16 to Admty.)

Roumania. Intelligence from U.S. Asst. N.A. German objective Result of Allied air riads. Roumanian morale. Oil transport facilities. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1005/16) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

Enemy Minefields. Your 2010C/15 and your 2030C/15 (N.T. in W.R). It is of great importance to be able to distinguish between known and suspected mine fields. Report whether (a) mines were actually seen to be laid (b) existence of field was later confirmed by M.D.U. or other means. (c) Any other relevant information. (Capt. S.1, 1115B/16 to THUNDERBOLT).

Benghazi, Gambut, bombed. Night 14/15. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and shipping starting fires on the Outer Mole. Further bombs fell on quays between Cathedral and Central Moles. 4 F.A.A. Albacores and 2 Wellingtons bombed enemy aircraft on Gambut landing ground destroying 8 and probably destroying further 8. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1119/16)

Vichy Ships, Turkey. Convoy of 5 interned Vichy ships escorted by Turkish auxiliary SUS expect to leave Iskanderun for Istanbul a.m./16. T.O.O. 1131B/16. (C. in C. Med., 1137B/16 to Med. Fleet).

Italian Destroyers for Bulgaria. 1. Your 1542/14, not to Admty. Intelligence Officer Black Sea informs me Turkish Govt. expect shortly to give permission to Italian Destroyers flying Bulgarian flag to pass into Black Sea two at a time but 24 hours notice will be given. 2. Enemy advance party near Perekop and Nova-Exieffka. Considerable increase to aircraft Black Sea Area. (L.O. Black Sea, 1209C/16 to Adm. Miles.)

/S/M.....

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

S/M operations. V.A. Malta 1321B/16. See Operations Volume.

Tripoli bombed and mined. Night 15/16. 10 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli. 6 aircraft scored hits on ships against Spanish Quay causing explosions, 2 aircraft successfully laid mines in harbour from 1500 ft., opposition usual, all aircraft returned. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/16).

French Fleet, Alexandria. No. 1713 - for Jacquet. I understand that Adm. Godfroy wishes to repatriate crew of SUFFREN and others who have been absent from France for a long time. His object may be to create an opportunity to send back to France Officers and men of Free French sympathies. In any event, experience has shown that once the principle of repatriation of large numbers is admitted, recruiting for Free French Forces comes to an end. Mere rumours that repatriation is being discussed may already be doing us harm in Alexandria. I now know that British Govt. have no intention whatever of agreeing to Adm. Godfroy's -proposal. Useful if you can find an opportunity of making this discreetly known.
(Vice Adm. F.N.F.L. 1707A/16 to N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports.)

DERNA. FRONSSAC. Departure 15th, DERNA, Italian, Sasebo, FRONSSAC, French, Marseilles. (Barcelona, 1719/16 to M. of W.T.)

Turkey. J.I.C. appreciation, possible German attack on Turkey. (W.O. 1920/16 to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.

Soviet Troops. Request following information:- A. Number and identity of Soviet divisions in Crimea; B. Particulars of any other troops. (D.N.I. -1930A/16 to B.N.L.O. Black Sea).

Greek Seamen. Greek Minister asks if spare Greek naval personnel, -including crews of small torpedo boats now at Port Sudan which are considered too old to be useful, could be used to man British warships in the same way as Poles, Norwegians and French. He expressed wish that their future employment should be in Mediterranean. Before making any decision request your views, particularly as to their efficiency and what type of ships would be suitable. (1st S.L., 1950A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/LISBOA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

LISBOA (German). Seriously damaged LISBOA will be leaving Sagunto for Palermo tonight with iron ore and iron bars also carrying 180 bags Lavender. Previously reported for Savona. (Valencia, 2045/16 to M. of W.T.)

Situation report 150. Western Desert. Enemy have withdrawn and position re-established. Supply to Tobruk continuing by destroyers a lighter and schooner.
2. Red Sea, Canal Area. NAIAD and GALATEA proceeding to reinforce COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and PARRAMATTA in Red Sea.
3. KIMBERLEY has brought (?a) Caique into Alexandria with soldiers and civilians from Crete. (C. in C. Med., 2320B/16 to Admty.)

East Indies.

JUPITER. Arrived Mombasa 0735/16 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. E.A. and Zanzibar, 0737Z/16 to C. in C. E.I.). W.D. Note. JUPITER left U.K. 2/8 with W.S.10, is on passage to Mediterranean.

SYGNA. Cancel my 0732/13 Norwegian SYGNA arrived. (S.O.I. Colombo 0740Z/16 to S.O.I. Bombay.) SYGNA due 8/9. Have you any news? (D.T.D. 1951A/16).

Harbour Defence Craft. A.M. 1543/1. Regret no craft left on the station which I can improvise for this service. If it is not possible to obtain these from other sources it will be necessary for the two motor launches referred to in A.M. 2342/14 to be assisted by power boats from the Fleet. (C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/16 to Admty.)

/FELIX.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies-Contd.

FELIX. ROUSSEL. CITY OF LONDON. — H.T. FELIX ROUSSEL is to leave Bombay for Aden 19/9 routed 809 N.C.S.O. Bombay's 0521/15 (?0525Z/15 intended). (ii) HECTOR (AMC) is to escort FELIX ROUSSEL to Aden and will then be required to escort CITY OF LONDON to Bombay as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. (iii) S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to arrange onward programme for FELIX ROUSSEL to Port Sudan and Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 0816Z/16 to Cdre. R.I.N., HECTOR).

U.S. ships, lights, Red Sea. — Opnav has ordered Alusna Capetown to instruct all U.S. Flag ships en route to Red Sea touching at Capetown while in Red Sea areas to darken ship. (Spenavo, 1500/16 to Admty.)

GLENROY. CLAN FORBES. — Instructions, Port T and Port W. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1748A/16 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. China, etc. C. in C. E.I. 1846Z/16 to C. in C. Med.) See Operations Volume.

Iran Operations, publication. — Director Public Relations Defence Dept., India, desires to pass to Indian press background? material for operations against Persia from Second in Command and particularly R.I.N. aspect. I have approved this and asked F.O.C.R.I.N. to assume responsibility for censorship. (C. in C. E.I. 1814Z/16 to Admty.)

### China.

JERSEY. — Your 1225A/15 JERSEY sailed 15/9 for Samarang. (N.C.S.O. Singapore 0229Z/16 to Admty.)

ANHUI. — Japanese having raised last minute difficulties ANHUI is not to proceed to Yokohama until further instructions. (Head of M. 1729A/16 to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies-Contd.

FELIX. ROUSSEL. CITY OF LONDON. — H.T. FELIX ROUSSEL is to leave Bombay for Aden 19/9 routed 809 N.C.S.O. Bombay's 0521/15 (?0525Z/15 intended). (ii) HECTOR (AMC) is to escort FELIX ROUSSEL to Aden and will then be required to escort CITY OF LONDON to Bombay as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. (iii) S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to arrange onward programme for FELIX ROUSSEL to Port Sudan and Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 0816Z/16 to Cdre. R.I.N., HECTOR).

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

**Ships Refitting, U.S.A. publication of names.**

Your 2140/2. No Admiralty objection to proposed relaxation subject to additional restriction no speculation allowed of expected date of departure of any H.M. ships. (D.P.D., 0134A/16 to B.A.R.M.) See also 1003/16.

**U.S. Navy and Convoys.**

W/T organisation commencing with H.X. 150, S.C.45, O.N.18. C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet will assume authority corresponding to that previously held by C. in C. W.A. as regards Trans-Atlantic trade convoy operations in Western Atlantic. (C.C.N.F., 0305Z/16, to N.E.F.) See Lion Copy.

**FORTH.**

Your 1925A/15. Propose FORTH leave St. Johns as arranged proceeding direct to Halifax to embark stores, and propellers for which 3 days have been allocated. FORTH will then be within 24 hours steaming of Portsmouth N.H. when the approval referred to in B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 is received. Departure may have to be delayed by 24 hours while accommodation is being arranged for ship's company of AVALON. (C.C.N.F. 0306Z/16 to Admty.) Approved. (A.C.N. S.(H) 1840A/16).

**Task Group 2.5.**

BROOKLYN, STACK, departed New York 15/9. YORKTOWN, WAINRIGHT, ROWAN, leaving Norfolk 16/9 1300 for R/V off Bermuda whence these ships form Task Group 2.5 and patrol over route previously reported. Arrive Bermuda (date) speed about 13 knots. (Opnav, 0330Z/16 to Admty.)

**NEWCASTLE A/C.**

Your 0116Z/16. The 2 flying crews and maintenance personnel should disembark at Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/16 to NEWCASTLE).

**Ships in U.S.A.**

B.A.R.M's 2140R/2. U. S. press acting under influence of Col. Knox have behaved very loyally concerning keeping confidential movements of H.M. Ships refitting in U.S. ports and have concealed all information on this subject up to present. Owing to length of time during which refits have been going on, with consequent visits of ships and personnel, the whole question has inevitably become known to the public and to continue the present policy only irritates the press and appears to serve no useful purpose. For these reasons Colonel Knox now proposes a relaxation of secrecy of rules imposed on press as set out in message from B.A.R.M. quoted. U.S. press is now growing extremely impatient and matter has become very urgent and for this reason it appears very desirable for T.L. to agree to Col. Knox's proposals and that we

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| Ships in U.S.A. -Contd. | should be able to convey this to Navy. Dept. without delay. Ref. Admty. 2202/2 and B.A.R.M. 1152R/8 interview has been held up at request of U.S. Naval Authorities at Bremerton owing to delicate situation with Seattle Press. (B.A.D. 1003R/16 to Admty.) |
| AUSONIA. | Intend sailing AUSONIA on 18/9 for Bermuda with personnel and stores and for gunnery practices. E.T.A. 1530Q/20. (R.A.3., 1026/16 to Admty. etc.) |
| S.C.45. | Intend RANPURA to escort S.C.45 to Western R/V thence returning to Halifax. A/S escorts SHERBROOKE, MATAPEDIA, CHICOUTIMI to Western R/V thence returning to Sydney. SPIKENARD to Eastern R/V. (R.A.3., 1054P/16 to Admty. etc.) |
| AURANIA. DIOMEDE. | Bermuda arrivals AURANIA, DIOMEDE wearing flag of C. in C. A. and W.I. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1253Q/16). |
| U.S. Escort Groups. | Am informed by Sopa Argentia that U.S. Escort groups will be designated 4.1.1. to 4.1.9. Our groups will be designated 4.1.11. to 4.1.16. These designations to be permanent for use in convoy operations. (C.C.N.F. 1414Z/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.) |
| F.O.3 B.S. SEABORN. SAMBRO. | Flag F.O.C. 3rd B.S. will be hauled down and H.M.S. SEABORN paid off on 30/9. All correspondence to F.O.C.3rd B.S. should reach SEABORN before that date. On 1/10 C.O.A.C. Halifax will take all operational and administrative Volunteer duties at present carried by F.O.C. 3rd B.S. SEABORN is to be commissioned as H.M.C.S. SAMBRO A.M./1/10. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1455Z/16). |
| S.S. ROUERGUE. | Your 1138/11. Algiers 15/9 A.1. S.S. ROUERGUE formerly JOHN KNUDSEN has left in ballast for Marseilles. According to reports in Oran, she is to be turned over to the Italians. (B.A.D. 1605R/16 to Admty.). |
| W.H.X. W.S.C. | W.H.X. and W.S.C. convoy sections. Declared speeds should in future be included in sailing telegram Part II. These figures should be shown as a prefix before each ships name in column 9. (D.T.D. 1747A/16 to N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.) |

/CAP.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP DES PALMES. CHEVREUIL. | Admty. 1810A/28. Kingston Jamaica arrival French Ship CAP DES PALMES. Minor defects to Auxiliary machinery will be completed p.m./20 when ship will sail in company with French ship CHEVREUIL for Colon arriving 0700R/22 for passage of canal. Request Admiralty inform A.C.F.N.F.L. and French High Commissioner in LE TRIOMPHANT. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1820R/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| Japanese Shipping. | Following positions noon/12 intercepted in NYK code: HEIYO MARU 05.14 N. 99.03 W. AKAGI MARU 09.04 N. 99.03 W. NOTO MARU 21.00 N. 106.30 W. Noon/13 RAKUYO MARU 26.26 N. 140.13 W. Special intelligence indicates BUENOS AIRES MARU, KIYOKAWA MARU and YAMABUKI MARU are on westerly course. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2004Z/16 to Capt. O.S. Singapore). |
| Task Groups 2.5, 2.6, 2.7. | Movements (Opnav 2245/16). See Operations Volume. |
| ERATO (torpedoed 26/7). | Spanish MOTOMAR arrived New York 12/9 reporting at 0600 G.M.T. 1/9 in 039° 29' N. 018° 27' W. picked up empty lifeboat ex Br. ship ERATO. New York office Ellerman Wilson line informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2311Z/16 to Admty.) |
| U.S. Forces. | Movement report supplement. (Opnav 2315/16 to Admty.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Australia and New Zealand.

LE TRIOMPHANT — My 1400 W.X./11. Ship delayed in Honolulu by small defect until 16/A.M. Intend programme to read Tahiti and surrounding Islands 23/9 - 9/10. (LE TRIOMPHANT 0105WX/16 to A.C.F.N.F.L.) A stock of furnace oil has been laid down at Tahiti in addition to the stock of gas oil which was already there. (D.O.D. (F) 1932A/16 to LE TRIOMPHANT).

Free French Signals. — Your 1146/15. Arrangements will be made to allocate British Signal Letters to all Free French Merchant Ships trading in British Interests. (3) Recognition procedure between Warships and Merchant ships is not to be imparted to any Free French ship unless she is wearing the Red Ensign. (D.N.I., 1933A/16 to A.C.N.B.)

Rabaul. — Re defences. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2140A/16 to A.C.N.B.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### General.

German Signals.

U-boats attacking at night are known to employ pyrotechnic signals to indicate to each other the course, disposition etc., of the convoy. Attention is called to C.B.04102, Report No. 4. (D.S.D. 1803A/16 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Firing of Rockets.

Attention of Masters is to be drawn to the fact that U-boats have on several occasions recently been sighted between the columns of Convoy. It is of vital importance that in such cases 2 white rockets are fired immediately and a W/T report, giving position in convoy, is made. (C. in C. W.A. 1924A/16 to N.C.S.O's.)

### Ships Attacked.

S.C.42. (attacked 11/9 etc.)

Following ships are to return to Iceland forthwith at best speed:- SKEENA, COLUMBIA, SAINT CROIX, MIMOSA, GLADIOLUS, MOOSEJAW, WETASKAWIN. SKEENA to report convoy position to SALISBURY when well clear. (C. in C. W.A. 0924A/16 to DOUGLAS).
ST. CROIX and MOOSEJAW detached Loch Ewe 0930A/16 for fuel. MOOSEJAW requires medical assistance and has 38 survivors and 29 prisoners on board. SALISBURY, ALBERNI, KENOGAMI and 4th Escort Group Corvettes have not yet joined but have received Convoy's position by R/T. Fog for last 24 hours. Remaining escorts in company as expected. My P.C. and S. are 59.47 N. 12.40 W. 6½ at 0800Z/16. Weather report. (DOUGLAS, 0917Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1124A/16. (Requesting information of ORILLIA and MOOSEJAW - not circulated in Admiralty ORILLIA arrived 1845/15. MOOSEJAW not yet arrived from S.C.42. (A.C.I.C., 1237/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

PEGASUS

S.O.S. Following received from Swedish Steamer HJELMAREN begins. Position 54.31 N., 29.52 W. -sighted two lifeboats crews rowing away from sinking Greek steamer PEGASUS. Please send rescue ships as own attempt failed. Look out for floating barges and pontoons same position. (Liverpool W/T, Burnham W/T, T.O.R. 2015/16)
PEGASUS, 5762 tons, from Leith for Trinidad and Alexandria, had been in O.N. 14. (D.S. 743.)

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1941. Tuesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

PEGASUS -Contd. — Proceed forthwith to search for survivors from Greek PEGASUS reported sinking in 54° 31' N. 29° 52' W. Look out for floating barges and pontoons in this position. Trawlers should continue search for survivors from NEWBURY. (C. in C. W.A., 2057A/16 to ALISMA, DIANELLA).

1 ship S.C.42. — One Ship torpedoed 059° 42' N. 010° W. (DOUGLAS, 2114/16 to C. in C. W.A.) Position about 140 miles N.W. by W. of Butt of Lewis. (D.S. 743).

### Submarines Reported.

Threat to O.N. 16. — D.16 to give close cover. Various signals see Home Commands, Operations.

South Atlantic. — U/B's in 3° N. to 8° S., and 30° W. Proposals. (C. in C. S.A. 2123A/16) See South Atlantic.

1516Z. — One enemy S/M submerged bearing 037° course unknown my position 334° from 59° N., 10° W. 23 miles. (ST. CROIX, 1516Z/16).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1555A/16).

1002/16. 1129/16. — By D/F, U-boats in following positions. (1) At 1002/16, 1 in 70° 41' N. 41° 41' E. course northerly. (2) At 1129/16, 1 in 70° 03' N. 41° 08' E., course south. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2202C/16 to Admty.)

### Submarines Attacked.

By KINGSTON AMBER. — One Sub. submerged bearing 045° distance 1 mile my position 61.48 N., 15.25 W. (KINGSTON AMBER 0825 /16 to Scapa W/T).
Contact with submarine confirmed, my position (as 0825/16) dead reckoning. (KINGSTON AMBER, 0840A/16 to S.O.T.N.P.)
Still in contact, 2 depth charges left. My position is 061° 58' N. 015° 33' W. dead reckoning. (KINGSTON AMBER 0938A/16 to S.O.T.N.P).
My position 062° 04' N. 015° 50' W. estimated. Course 171°. Lost contact 0950, 061° 51' N. 015° 44' W. No oil (?or) wreckage seen. (KINGSTON AMBER 1200A/16 to S.O.T.N.P.)

/By.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By Wellington A/C. Following has been read. Am over enemy Submarine in 49.40 N., 12.10 W. Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge on a course 180° speed 5 knots. (A/C using call sign 6FWQ 1245/16) Wellington, 221 Sqdn. (D.S. 743). Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges, estimate one hit. (A/C 6FWQ 1300/16 to 19 Group).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E.C.74 attacked by E-boats.

Convoy E.C.74 was attacked by E-boats in the early hours of today near Sheringham Buoy, and S.S. TETELA and TEDDINGTON were torpedoed in 53° 4' N. 1° 35' E., the latter being set on fire. TETELA was towed to the Humber. WALPOLE placed a naval party on board TEDDINGTON, which raised steam and fought the fire, but the ship eventually became a total loss.

Fleet fog-bound.

Units of the Fleet at Scapa were fog-bound from 2236A today to 0542A/18.

British Air Operations.

A minor attack was made on docks and shipping at Le Havre last night.

Mining.

Further mines were exploded today in the Humber area.

Further minelaying by enemy aircraft occurred in the Thames Estuary last night.

South Atlantic.

Mine.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports a drifting mine 5 miles 255° from Robben Island on 16/9.

NESTOR.

Admiralty consider that defects in NESTOR (on her way to join Mediterranean Fleet) can be more quickly repaired in U.K., and she is therefore to sail for home independently at best speed, fuelling at Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

**Air Operations.**

5 Blenheims successfully attacked two munition factories at Licata (75 miles West of Syracuse, Sicily) today.

4 Blenheims attacked 4 enemy small ships near Cduara today and destroyed one schooner and claimed a second as a total loss. 1 Blenheim was blown up with the explosion of the first schooner, another was shot down into the sea by M/G fire.

**Libya & Western Desert.**

Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour last night, creating a diversion for Swordfish and Wellingtons laying mines.

5 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations at Benghazi last night.

9 Marylands bombed stores dumps at Bardia today.

Single enemy aircraft twice dropped bombs near Tobruk today and possibly some mines near the harbour.

East Indies.

Survivors tug TAI KOO have arrived at Massawa in a dhow. According to evidence so far taken the vessel foundered in approx. 16° 45' N. 40° 5' E. as the result of an explosion considered to have been caused by a mine. TAI KOO was engaged in salving enemy merchant ships scuttled at Massawa, and her loss will entail a setback to the salvage of several valuable prizes.

**Operation "Snip".**

Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against 4 French ships which it was reported on 15/9 would leave Diego Suarez shortly for Indo-China, escorted by a French sloop. The westbound convoy remains the main object, however.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Task Group 2.7. — A U.S.A. cruiser and 2 destroyers left Bermuda today to patrol in the Atlantic.

DIOMEDE. — DIOMEDE leaves Bermuda on 19/9 for Esquimalt, and will later establish a patrol westward of Galapagos Islands outside the U.S. operating area.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.S.4. — Norwegian S.S. SEGUNDO was sunk by a torpedo today whilst in Convoy O.S.4., in 47° 30' N. 87°(?)0' W. 27 survivors were landed at Freetown.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Minesweepers. My 1934A/16th paras. 1 and 2. The 4 Minesweepers are not now required at Scapa. Request they may be sailed for Hvalfiord with O.N.19.
(C. in C.H.F. 14554/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

PRINCE BAUDOUIN. Your 2343A/16. PRINCE BAUDOUIN has not sufficient endurance to reach Freetown. Observing that the work on this ship has been from first priority and that work on other ship(s) has been very much delayed thereby, it is most important that she should leave Avonmouth on 21/9 on completion of refit. Information is requested as to port to which she should be sailed.
(N.O.I/C Cardiff 1759A/17 to Adty.)

Atlantic Convoy escorts. Cancel para. 1 of my 1145A/13 and substitute:-
"Commencing with HX 150 leaving Halifax on 16/9 the U.S.A. Naval Authorities will arrange for the protection of Trans-Atlantic trade convoys between Western Atlantic Ports and Mid-Ocean Meeting Points referred to in following paragraph."
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2031A/17.)

Movements.

P.34. Cancel my 1017A/16. My 1633A/10. Amend as follows. P.34 acknowledge.
(Capt.(S) 3 1703A/17.)

Fleet fogbound. Units of the Fleet at Scapa are Fogbound.
(C. in C.H.F. 2236A/17. to Adty.)

Operations.

E.boat attack on E.C.74. TETELA, TEDDINGTON torpedoed. E Boats have sighted Convoy O.61, C.M.R.24.
(LIDDESDALE 0122/17 to S.O.4th M.S.F.)
My 0122 E boat attacking "Pattern" 061 C.M.R.14.
(LIDDESDALE 0125/17.)
Have abandoned chase of E Boat at Owers Bank. No result.(WORCESTER 0201A/17 to LIDDESDALE.)
Am screening damaged ship in rear of convoy.
(WALPOLE 0245A/17 to LIDDESDALE.)
TETELA and TEDDINGTON of E.C.74 torpedoed.
Tugs required. Both afloat SAPPHIRE and WIDGEON standing by position 53° 04' N., 1° 35' E.
(WIDGEON 0257A/17 to C. in C. Nore, LIDDESDALE, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
2 E. Boats bearing 303. 353. C.M.R.8.
(LIDDESDALE 0300A/17 to Yarmouth W/T.)

/My 0257A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E.Boat attack on E.C.74. TETELA, TEDDINGTON torpedoed. Contd.

My 0257A have TETELA in tow am proceeding into Humber. SAPPHIRE standing by TEDDINGTON have 58 crew on board none injured and remainder on motor launch.
(WIDGEON 0405A/17 to C. in C. Nore.)
Despatch of tugs etc. (F.O.Humber 0440A/17, 0533A/17, 0750A/17, F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0515A/17, 0745A/17, WALPOLE 0546A/17, 1325A/17, WIDGEON 0646A/17, 0752/17. C. in C. Nore 0817A/17, 1751A/17, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1132A/17.)
From reports received to date following is brief account of E-boats attacks early today. About 0125 LIDDESDALE reported E.C.74 being attacked near 57A buoy. Merchant ships TETELA and TEDDINGTON torpedoed, latter being set on fire. WORCESTER chased E-boats to vicinity of Ower Bank and believes hits were scored. M.G.B's tried to gain contact but were unable to intercept. About 0300 LIDDESDALE reported E-boats near Sheringham buoy. Apparently these were driven off as no attack on convoy developed. WIDGEON took TETELA in tow expected time of arrival Humber 1830/17. WALPOLE placed Naval party on board TEDDINGTON. This party raised steam and got fire under control. Vessel now being taken to anchorage off Cromer. Salvage Officer and Yarmouth tugs in attendance. Crews of both merchant ships arriving Yarmouth and Humber in M.L's and WIDGEON.
(C. in C. Nore 1721A/17.)

C.W.50. shelled.

At 2035/16 while C.W.50 was in the South Downs enemy aircraft dropped three bombs of which one fell off South Foreland, and two to the Westward of Dover Harbour. Between 2111 and 2236 Calais Battery fired 9 rounds and Gris Nez Battery 7 rounds. Six fell about two miles to seaward of Dover Harbour and remainder believed to have burst in the air or fallen inland to the Westward. C.W.50 was passing Dover between 2130 and 2230. No damage or casualties reported.
-(V.A. Dover 0944A/17.)

Force M oiling at sea.

Your 0919/14. Oiler ALDERSDALE reports everything went very well. Oiler OLIGARCH all went well until SUFFOLK parted tow and hose due to yawing. Has spare tow wire and hopes to replace hose by borrowing locally.
(A.C.I.C. 1031/17 to C. in C.H.F.)

/Operation J.R..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

| | |
|---|---|
| Operation J.R. | Operation J.R. is cancelled. Request all copies may be destroyed forthwith and destruction certificates forwarded to C. in C. Portsmouth. Reference paragraph 18 books are to be re-embarked. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1043A/17 to Admty. N.O.I.C., Dover, N.O.I.C., Newhaven, Capt. (D) BERKELEY, ATHERSTONE, FERNIE, PUCKERIDGE H.Q., No. 2. Group, H.Q No. 11 Group, H.Q. No. 16 Group. H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., M.G.B's 312, 314, 316.) |
| TRIDENT in Northern Waters. | S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1142C/3 para 5 and D.S.N.E. No 734 para XII Northern Waters. The vessels now believed to have been sunk by TRIDENT were far larger than was at first supposed and carried troops of which nearly 2000 were drowned. Consider this news will add materially to prestige of our S/M's in these waters and be of great encouragement to the crews. If S.B.N.O. Murmansk is not aware of the extent of TRIDENT's success request he may be informed by signal. (F.O. (S) 1122A/17 to Admty. D.N.I. 1903A/17 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.) |
| A/S Patrol | My 1904A/15 if not in contact by 2000A/17 M.L's are to return to harbour. (C. in C. W.A. 1126A/17 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway) |
| ? | F.S.H. dated 23.7.41. part III is cancelled. (F.O.S. 1126A/17 to S. 3.) |
| Oilers | C. in C. H.F. 1310A/17 See Operations Volume. |
| M.T.B. Patrol | Weather permitting repeat patrol ordered in my 1412/16/9 with one unit of M.T.B's tonight Wednesday. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore, 1422A/17 to BEEHIVE) |
| A/S Patrol along Q.Z.S. 271. | My 1803A/9 Patrol is to be carried out each night until further orders. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1513A/17 to X.D.O. (E)) |

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

P.R.U. — P.R.U. Kristiansand in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1108/17.)

Bomber Command Operations. — Day 16/9. An 80 ton reporting vessel 120 miles north of Den Helder, was attacked by 4 aircraft 2 of them registered direct hits which caused the vessel to blow up and sink. Night 16/17 Sept., Le Havre. 7 Wellingtons attacked the docks and shipping. (H.Q.B.C., 1348/17.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy C.W.50. — See V.A.Dover 0944A/17. (Operations.)

VINGA. — Contacted and made fast at 1205A/17th. Commenced towing at 1225A, position, course and speed 058° 13' North, 013° 15' West, 125° 6 knots bound Rothesay Bay unless otherwise ordered. No assistance required.

Convoy E.C.73. LOCHGARRY. — My 1522/16 and my 1235A/17 to A.C.O.S. only. LOCHGARRY was attacked by aircraft at 1315 and has returned to Thorshavn with CAVA. LOCHGARRY received (?minor) damage and has one U.X.B. on board. No casualties. (N.O.I.C.Faroes 1606A/17)

LOCHGARRY. — S.S.LOCHGARRY with leave and duty personnel bombed 1300/17, shortly after leaving Thorshavn. Slight damage to ship caused by U.X.B.'s necessitating return to port. No casualties. Anticipated sail evening 18/9. (O.C.Troops Faroe Is., 2115/17.)

SIBIR. — Russian hospital ship SIBERIA (? SIBIR) is reported to have been dive bombed, set on fire and sunk on the way from Tallinn to Leningrad with 1300 persons, mostly women and children, whilst distinctly marked as a hospital ship. Four hundred people are reported to have lost their lives. (D.S.N.E.743.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

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MOST SECRET

17.9.1941
Wednesday

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## HOME COMMANDS

### Mining

? Q.L. (2) — Harwich 17/9 arrivals M.T.B.'s 45,47,48. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0707A/17.)

Thames Estuary — There was some enemy aircraft activity over the Thames Estuary between 2035/16 and 0230/17 but chiefly during the first half hour of that period. At 2043 a plane at about 2,000 feet height, after being fired at by GOLDEN EAGLE dropped two parachute mines in positions approx. 017° two and five cables respectively from East Knock John Buoy. About the same time a splash thought to be a mine was reported in approx. 090° 5 cables from North East Shingles Buoy. At 2230 an aircraft was shot down in flames. (S.O.T.L.D.F., Sheerness 1303/17.)

Clyde Tugs required. — My 2256/15. Tugs FLYING KITE and ATLANTIC COCK were seriously damaged by mine on 15/9. Both vessels are largely submerged at high water and will be under repair for many months after salvage. Gradual increase in the supply of tugs has been much appreciated locally but loss of services of above mentioned vessels is a serious matter and their replacement now apart from 1 tug expected shortly is urgently requested. Port Regional Director concurs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1606/17 to Admty.)

Irish Sea — About 10 mines detected by Asdic in 53° 42' N., 04° 19' W. (spaced?) on line about 010° - 190° (BOREAS 2105A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Humber Area — The following magnetic and acoustic mines exploded today Wednesday near Sheringham Buoy, Inner Dowsing and Humber L.V. Details. (F.O.Humber 2120/17.)

### Enemy Intelligence

Cruiser — German cruiser observed moving south at Helsingborg 15 hours to-day. (B.C. Goteborg 1630/17.)

### Miscellaneous

Explosions in Swedish destroyers. — GOTEBORG, CLAS HORN and CLAS UGGLA by internal explosion and fire early today. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1727/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties & Defects.

MOOSEJAW — MOOSEJAW is being sailed to Clyde with 29 prisoners on board and she will require repairs to bows and diver to examine for any underwater damage. Asdic is entirely out of action. Main bearing of H.M. cylinder requires attention. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1225A/17)

Shipping & Convoys

W.S. 12. — Proposed embarkation arrangements. (D.S.T., 0350A/17 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland.)

H.G. 72. S.L. 85. — Arrived together under Cdre. Gill R.N.R., H.G. 72 17 ships, arrived complete, 3 ships were neutral and 2 Allied. 10 ships of S.L. 85 arrived, 1 casualty, DARU, bombed and sunk 2047/15. 5 ships were allied. Cargoes. (D.S. 743, 17/9)

S.C. 44. — Sailed CAMPBELTOWN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1747A/16. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0605A/17)

W.S. 11 X — Admty. 1011A/6 and 2317A/10. Sailed. Latest Q.K.A. 45. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0708A/17.) Capt. (D) 19 has requested Admty. he (?be) informed LAFOREY, LIGHTNING and ORIBI do not hold charts folios beyond next port of call. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/17.)

P.Q. 1. — Your 22(?)4/A/16. Escort for P.Q. 1 will consist of 2 destroyers and 4 Fleet minesweepers. Present intention is that the 3 Fleet minesweepers now at Archangel should remain until relieved by 3 from escort of P.Q. 1. It is not intended that the remainder of the escort should remain at Archangel during the turnover period. If reply to my 0036A/6 is satisfactory, intend to maintain 3 Fleet minesweepers in North Russia. (C. in C. H.F., 1217A/17 to Admty.)

/Request....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.1. (Contd.)

Request all signals concerning movements of convoy may be repeated to ELECTRA and passed direct in order to avoid delays experienced in communicating via (?B.N.A.Moscow.) and Archangel. (ELECTRA, 1605C/17, to Admty.)
Your 1528C/15 passed to C. in C.H.F., as my 2241/16. Escort of P.Q.1. will consist of 2 destroyers and 4 Fleet minesweepers. Of this escort 3 minesweepers only will remain at Archangel during turnover period. C. in C.H.F.'s present intention is that the 3 Fleet Sweepers now at Archangel shall remain until relieved by the 3 sweepers from P.Q.1.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1909A/17 to Adm. Miles.)

Signalling.

Admty., 472A of 22/8, para. 7. S.P. 02404 (1) is also to be distributed to Masters of Allied tankers sailing independently between West Indies and Freetown or Gibraltar.
(D.T.D. 1325A/17, Admty., Gen. Message Home 531A.Z. etc.)

LOCHNAGAR

Required to transport 250 workmen from Reykjavik to Thorshavn. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her with convoy S.D.12, and A.C.O.S. to arrange return sailing as soon as escort can be provided by a Northern Patrol Trawler.
(D.O.D.(H) 1326A/17 to C. in C.W.A. etc.)

Liverpool Escorts.

My 1639A/14. Para. 1 (A) and 2 (A). Owing to unforeseen commitments, arrangements are in abeyance whereby F.O.I.C. Liverpool details special escorts for outward and inward Liverpool portions of convoys. For the present, escorts are to be detailed as hitherto.
(C. in C.W.A. 1812A/17 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool,etc.)

S.C.41.

Met as arranged with 62 ships. Gale and much fog All now arrived except straggler EINVIK (Nor) torpedoed. This ship did not carry out diversion of standard route broadcasted to stragglers.
(D.T.D. 1837A/17 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

S.C.43.

4 hours ahead of your 1547A/17, course and speed 104°,7 knots (weather report).
(KEPPEL 1905A/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X.149.

24 hours late based on speed made good of 8 knots.
(ASCANIA, 1925Z/17, to C. in C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

**French Shipping.**

Passings 16/9 (several Spanish ships). French Eastward IB MAROC PARAME PONTET CANET, full, SAINTE MARCEL in Ballast. (V.A.C.N.A., 0911A/17 to Admty for M.E.W.)

**GERMANIA.**

Your 1635/16. How has vessel disposed of her cargo 13000 tons aviation spirit?
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1137/17 to Consul Teneriffe)
Reply: 1133/18.

**EDINBURGH.**

Request high-angle firing may be arranged for EDINBURGH West to Gibraltar. Date and details.
(C.S.18, 1155N/17 to V.A.C.N.A.)

**French Shipping.**

Gibraltar 0852 French Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE French Ships BRESTOIS laden OUED TIFLET light with deck cargo Westbound.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1713A/17 to Admty).

**Enemy Ships Las Palmas.**

SLESVIG and THYRA S., today removed from buoy inner harbour moored at breakwater and tankers CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and CORRIENTES now moored at buoys inner harbour.
(Las Palmas, 1730/17 to Admty).

N.I.D. Comment.

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and CORRIENTES have not been moved since outbreak of war. CORRIENTES has long been under suspicion in connection with fuelling of enemy S/Ms. She has been moored in a position which apparently prevented end of the breakwater from being seen from shore. Access to breakwater from land side was stopped at night and no boats were allowed in outer harbour.
Consul, Las Palmas reported 29/5 that CORRIENTES, a coal burner, was being supplied after nightfall with oil fuel by barge ex CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN; barge was a water boat, owned by Woermann & Co., a German Company.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

Ex. W.S.10. — Your 2015/4 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1100/15, as stated in my 0349/5 para 8, it is proposed to use INDRAPOERA, NEA HELLAS, and VOLENDAM. Request your views from point of view of handling at Takoradi. (D. of S.T., 0349A/17 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 0235/23.

TYNDAREUS. — Overdue shipping. TYNDAREUS due Capetown 14th from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1205B/17).

Mine. — Q G A 56. Drifting mine reported five miles 255° from Robben Island on 16/9. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1555B/17 to S.A. Stn).

NESTOR defects. — NESTOR's 1830Z/11 and C. in C. S.A.'s 1743N/16.
2. As turbine rotor lifting gear is not available at Simonstown and replacements of turbine bearing blocks will probably be necessary, it will be far quicker to bring NESTOR home than to send her on to Simonstown.
3. Ship should therefore be sailed for U.K. independently at best speed, fuelling at Gibraltar.
4. Approx. date of arrival should be signalled as soon as possible so that yard may be allocated. (D.O.D. (F) 1824A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

### Mediterranean.

GLENROY, CLAN FORBES. — Instructions. (C. in C. Med., 1127B/17, 1201B/17, to C. in C. E.I. and S.B.N.O. Suez Canal) See Operations Volume.

CHIPKA (Bulgarian). — Rome broadcast 16/9 news from Sofia that CHIPKA, 2304 tons, left Varna 15/9 and struck a mine and sunk. Crew stated to have been saved. (D.S., 743, 17/9).

ALBA JULIA (Roumanian). — Reported now at Trieste, not expected to return to Black Sea, but will run between Italy and Greece only. (D.S.743, 17/9).

/Benghazi.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Benghazi bombed. Bardia bombed.

Night 15/16. 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting fire on storage tanker at Juliana Mole which was still burning on 16/9. Fire also started on outer Mole near small ships. 2 F.A.A. Albacores bombed enemy gun position near Tobruk. Third Albacore despatched to attack submarine reported in Bardia Harbour did not locate it and bombed Harbour starting small fires.

U/B attacked.

Day 16/9. A Blenheim attacked S/M 50 miles north of Sollum with 1 A/S bomb. Damage unknown. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1152/17).

Suez Raid.

Further details enemy raid night 15/16. 4 enemy aircraft attacked Abbassia and military camp south of Helwan. Service casualties 4 soldiers killed 9 injured. Several civilian casualties. 2 enemy aircraft operated over canal and 2 over Alexandria but no bombs were dropped in either area. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1156/17).

UTMOST, PROTEUS, UNIQUE.

UTMOST leaves Malta p.m./18 to make passage Q BB 65 daylight 19th and anticipated that PROTEUS makes passage to S.E. on 20th and has been informed you arrive 038° 00' 024° 40' about 0530B/18, passing through 036° 30' 013° 30' before making N.W. searched channel. Any Merchant ship encountered within 100 miles of Malta is not to be attacked. (Capt. S.10., 1215B/17 to UNIQUE).

TETRARCH.

On completion of special operations proceed through Antikithera Channel to establish patrol in area S 035° 20' 023° 45' 000° 65 48 until p.m./22. Further orders will then be given. Concentrate your patrol off Suda Bay. (Capt. S.1. 1311B/17 to TETRARCH).

Tripoli bombed and mined.

Night 16/17. 7 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Harbour 5 aircraft carried bombs 2 aircraft carried mines. 4 mines laid 500 yards west of entrance to Harbour inside. Bombs dropped N.W. centre S.W. of Town, also on small camp South Benito Gate. Results not observed owing to cloud. Weather bad. 7 Swordfish laid mines outside Tripoli Harbour around North Mole and one fell inside Harbour. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1622/17).

/COLOMBIE.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

COLOMBIE, CANADA. Programme, Vichy Troop Ship COLOMBIE and Hospital Ship CANADA. (C. in C. Med., 1741B/17).

LL Sweepers. Your 1719A/15. From information available here, following is position regarding LL Sweepers on passage to Mediterranean.
1. 158 M/S Group of 3 vessels arrived Capetown 10/9.
2. KOS 7, KOS 12 due Durban 10/9.
3. KOS 10, and 11 at Capetown. Delayed indefinitely due to sickness of crews.
4. KOS 7 and 9 sailed U.K.2/9.
5. PRIMULA arrived Suez 15/9.
6. LORINDA sunk on passage KOS 8 no information.
7. 167 M/S Group still fitting out in South Africa from this it does not appear that more than 5 LL S.A. Sweepers i.e. those in 1, 2 and 5 above will arrive during the next 30 days and one of them is a Corvette which will be required for A/S and escort duties. (C. in C. Med., 1911B/17 to Admty).

Libyan Convoys. For Chiefs of Staff from Cs. in C. Question of interception of Libyan Convoys, analysis of success achieved by S/M, torpedo bombers, medium bombers, heavy bombers. Recommendations for increased attack.(C.in C.Med.1933/17 to Admty) See Lion Copy. Reply:2242/21.

OTUS. OTUS leaves vicinity of Alexandria about 1800B/18 for 032° 08' 029° 06' thence on course 300°. (Capt. S.1. 2103B/17, to THUNDERBOLT.)

Malta Supplies Following telegram is agreed by V.A.M. I have addressed several requests to the S. of S. for Colonies asking that essential commercial orders from firms in England should now be shipped to Egypt to await onward convoy to Malta. We anticipate convoys from the East will be resumed during winter months. Although these orders are commercial they are essential to the defence of the fortress for they cover such items as motor tyres spare parts etc.(Gov. Malta 2357B/17 to Admty).

/Cyprus.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cyprus.

Report for period 31/8 - 13/9. In 3 moonlight raids, the first on Cyprus, no damage or casualties were caused. First, 5-6/9 3 aircraft dropped bombs near Kythera and Strongylos villages, Italian communique announcing Nicosia aerodrome attacked. Second, 8-9/9, 4 bombs dropped on coast 16 miles east of Kyrenia, others all in the sea at Famagusta. Third, 10-11/9 10 bombs dropped at new Kimasol aerodrome and 12 at Larnaca aerodrome. Second and third raids evidently carried out in conjunction with attacks on Haifa on the same nights. (Officer Administering Govt. (Cyprus) No. T.O.O./17 to S. of S. Colonies).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Seychelles. Flying Boat left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0001Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Base Defences. Your 1812/12. Gear cannot be ready in Bombay before 30/9; details of gear being supplied by India will be given to Major Newling before he leaves Simla. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1140Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

WINDSOR CASTLE. P.S.T.O. Simonstown 1126/13 and 0922/16. Bombay now working full capacity, regret present commitments do not permit undertaking repairs WINDSOR CASTLE. Detailed report stating time required and whether materials available India will be made on ship's arrival. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1221Z/17 to D.S.T.)

HOHENFELS (German) My 1500/31/8 para 3. S.N.O.P.G. reports HOHENFELS easily salvable by a properly equipped salvage Company but work is beyond capacity of local resources. A.I.O.C. are prepared to give all assistance but have not suitable appliances. Ship is a fine modern vessel and it is suggested that a salvage firm E.G. Van Deldem should be offered the job as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.I. 1252Z/17 to Admty.)

U.S. Ships, Red Sea. Americans have directed their shipping to darken ship in the Red Sea areas. Any U.S.A. ships bound for the Red Sea calling at British ports are to be given this information.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1331A/17 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. etc.)

TAIKOO sunk. Survivors from TAI KOO have arrived Massawa in dhow. According to evidence so far taken vessel foundered in approx. 016° 45' N. 040° 05' E. following explosion on port side just before funnel. Vessel at time of explosion was steering course N. 078° W. for Kavet. Master drowned and Commander Stenhouse R.N.R. missing presumed drowned. Consider possible still 3 Chinese survivors on Harmil Island and there are possibly still 2 rafts unaccounted for. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 1658Z/17 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)
My 1658/17. Consider cause of explosion was a mine. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1904Z/17) TAI KOO, salvage tug, 688 tons. (D.S.744)

/Operation

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

Operation "Ration". My 0057/13. If Eastbound convoy referred to in S.O.(I) Capetown's 1043/15 is encountered within limits of East Indies Station, Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against this convoy also, but Westbound convoy remains main object.(Hd.of M.,App. 1 S.L 1753A/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Persian Gulf. Port developments approved. (C. in C. India 1810/17 to General, Iraq.) See Lion Copy.

JUPITER. Mombasa left 17/9 2031 G.M.T. JUPITER. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa 2036Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.) W.D. Note: En route U.K. to Mediterranean.

China.

Manila and Subic Bays. The American Naval Authorities have notified entrance to Manila and Subic Bays are dangerous as on account of minefields. Details. (Cdre. Hong Kong 0437Z/17.)

Belgians in China. From Baron for Gen. De Gaulle No. 378 dated 16/9 re active Anti-free French attitude of Belgian authorities in China. (C. in C. China, 0511Z/17 to Admty.)

Shipping casualties Hong Kong. Loops damaged. During typhoon which struck Hong Kong yesterday 16th EMPIRE ALMOND grounded but no apparent damage. ULYSSES under refit grounded and holed. Now on even keel in five fathoms. Salvage proceeding. Small river steamer MANNE-DONG LING now ashore south coast Lantau after apparently drifting over West Lamma minefield. Damage to loops, one mine loop and 2 indicator loops out of action. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0657Z/17 to C. in C. China

/Australian

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Australian Minesweepers.

A.M.1409/16/4 para.(a) and your 1127/15/7. I am counting on Australian-built "BATHURSTS" to provide not only M/S facilities but also A/S escort for Singapore convoy. Would very much appreciate early arrival of BENDIGO and any other of class that may be available together with an estimate of future arrivals. (C. in C. China 0709Z/17 to A.C.N.B.)

MARECHAL JOFFRE. (French)

Arrived 16/9. (Saigon, 1057Z/17 to M. of W.T.)

ANHUI.

Ambassador Tokyo 727 to F.O. ANHUI can sail 0300 G.M.T./18 arriving Yokohama daylight/24. Request immediate instructions. (Cdre. Hong Kong 1435Z/17 to C. in C. China.)

CHEVREUIL.

My 1059A/18. Instructions for employment in Pacific. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1744A/17 to C. in C. China). See Operations Volume.

Russian Minesweeping.

Your 1722C/13 and A.M.1927/19. In view of possibility of Japan entering the war it is most important that Russian minesweeping and A/S arrangements in Far East should receive such benefit as we can give them. Therefore proposed to send you an additional minesweeping specialist officer and an interpreter (A/S officer) with Powell. On arrival of this party at Moscow request you will arrange for Powell and interpreter to proceed to Vladivostok. (A.C.N.S.(H) & (F) 1847A/17 to Adm. Miles, Moscow.)

America and West Indies.

Task Group 2.5.

Further to Opnav Boston's 1758Z/12. Following from Opnav Washington. YORKTOWN, WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN leaving Norfolk 16/9 1300 for R/V off Bermuda whence these ships form Task Group 2.5 and patrol over route previously reported. Arrive Bermuda 2/10, speed about 13 knots. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0258Z/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/LE TRIOMPHANT

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies. - Contd.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Endeavours are being made to obtain in U.S.A. submerged mechanism for Chernikeef log for LE TRIOMPHANT. Before proceeding further request information how long ship will remain at Tahiti. (C. in C. A.W.I. 09530/17 to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN. Leave Bermuda on completion of practice p.m./18 and carry out following programme. (C. in C. A.W.I. 10020/17 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

Georgetown. All Naval Shore establishments and craft permanently employed at Georgetown will in future be under administrative control of N.O.I.C. Trinidad. N.C.S.O. Georgetown to inform Governor, British Guiana. (C. in C. A.W.I., 10340/17 to Capt. i/c Trinidad.)

Japanese Ships. S.O.I. Callao reports (A.3) 3 NYK and one KKK en route Japan Peru. Former may include NOTO MARU, see my 1304R/15. Can you name others? (S.O.I. Jamaica 1158R/17 to Capt. O.S. Singapore.)

U.S. Group 2.5. A.T. 1811A/14 Para.I. Composition Group 2.5 BROOKLYN, STACK, left New York 15/9. YORKTOWN, WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN left Norfolk 16/9. All ships R/V off Bermuda and proceed along route previously given to arrive Bermuda 2/10. S. of A. 13 knots. (D.O.D.(F) 1201A/17 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

FORTH, S/M's working up in U.S.A. Your 1925A/15. U.S. Authorities have agreed to personnel and gear being landed in anticipation of definite approval for submarines to work up, which is expected within a few days. In view of necessity for FORTH to collect spare gear for American submarines from New London for transport to U.K., (see B.A.D.1905R/25), propose FORTH proceeds to Portsmouth New Hampshire when ready to leave Halifax. FORTH to communicate revised programme. (B.A.R.M. 1206R/17 to Admty.) Approved. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1609A/18.)

/U.S.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U.S. Tugs for U.K. — My 1556/5/8. Understand that in view of lateness of season and difficulty experienced by these tugs in convoy, M. of W.T. intend to abandon idea of despatching the smaller tugs SPEDDEN, SOCONY, AMERICAN and HARRAHAM. Propose that NANCY MORAN, expected ready Sydney in three weeks time, BARWICK repairing same port, and such of the remaining three tugs GALLAGHER, HUGHES and BATTLEBORO as may be available, be sailed as a group from Sydney via Belle Island, Greenland and Iceland (C) taking advantage of weather. Request you arrange sailing accordingly and discuss question of escort with U.S. Authorities. (D.T.D. 1214A/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

S.C. Convoys. — (1) Are orders with reference to S.C. Convoys singly issued direct to C.C.N.F. by C. in C. Lant?
(2) If so, request they be repeated for information to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.
(3) If not, request this be done.
(C.N.S., Ottawa, 1510Z/17 to Opnav.)

NEWCASTLE. — Leave Bermuda when ready p.m./17 and proceed direct Boston, adjust speed to arrive Finns Ledge Buoy at 2000 zone plus 3 on 19/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 13330/17 to NEWCASTLE.)

U.S. Navy and Convoys. — My 0305Z/16. Add para. (i) If R/T is used for intercommunication between Canadian and U.S. Ships, Call Sign from S.P. 02378 should be used. (C.C.N.F., 1403Z/17 to Newfoundland Force.)

TULIP, CLARKIA. — My 0948/12. CLARKIA and TULIP delayed. They will now sail Sunday 21/9. (B.A.R.M. 1424R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Wreckage. — RAMSAY reports at 1400Z/15 in 051° 40' N. 045° W. quantity of thick oil. Attempted to salvage upturned lifeboat with oars and life jackets floating around. Sea too rough. Boat and life jackets were apparently in water a short time. Sample of oil taken. (C.C.N.F., 1435Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

DIOMEDE. — To leave Bermuda a.m./19. Programme. To establish patrol westward of Galapagos Islands outside U.S. operating area. (C. in C. A.W.I., 15520/17 to DIOMEDE.) See Operations Volume.

/AURANIA

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

AURANIA. Intend sailing AURANIA from Bermuda for Halifax on completion of practices p.m./20 arriving a.m./23. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1542Q/17 to B.S.3.)

A.M.C's. Your 1248A/6. Request information of Admiralty policy regarding remaining A.M.C's of N.A.E. Force and whether and for what function it is intended that any should remain based at Halifax. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1551Q/17 to Admty.)

French Ships, Casablanca. Casablanca 15/9 A.1. ALPHEI (?) sailed for Bordeaux with 4 other ships, names unknown, but possibly PARME and CONTET CANET were 2 of them. A sloop is escorting as far as Berlengas Island whence German ships or planes will take over escort. Speed of convoy 7 - 8 knots. (B.A.D., 1617R/17 to F.O.C.N.A.) Comment. ALPHEI is possibly the Greek ADELFOI CHANDRIS which has been requisitioned by the French. PARAME and PONTET CANET passed Gibraltar eastbound on 16/9 with MAROC and STE MARCELLE; these are probably the four ships referred to.

HEIYO MARU. Following noon position 14/9 HEIYO MARU intercepted in NYK code 12.31 N., 96.39 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1651Z/17 to C.O.S. Singapore.)

S O S At 1324Z/17 Q.R.T., S O S heard Camperdown Radio, strength three, no call sign and no position given. Also heard by a ship in 37.52 N.,52.38 W. strength four. (Ottawa, 1633Z/17 to Admty., amended 1823Z/22.)

Task Group 2.7. Schedule Task Group 2.7 modified as follows. NASHVILLE, LANG, WILSON leave Bermuda 17/9. Proceed along Axis of patrol area outlined in my 2245/16, making good 14 knots, returning same route and arriving Bermuda 1200 G.C.T./24.
Classify
15Z/17 to Admty.

)

Eastbound Convoy Escorts. Admiralty give to Spenavo. Concur in proposal contained in your 141355. It is our understanding that augmentation of Canadian Escort Forces by British Escort ships will suffice for adequate escort of all Eastbound sail cast convoys. Request that locus of mid-ocean meeting points be defined as within panel

/between

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941. Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Eastbound Convoy Escorts contd. — between 22nd and 26th meridians West, where said panel lies wholly within Western Atlantic area as now prescribed and preferably Northward of 58th parallel. This cancels my 171700. (Opnav, 1721Z/17 to Admty.)

W.I. Force. DIOMEDE. — My 12220/2. After leaving Manzanillo proceed so as to arrive Balboa 25/9 and turn over to DIOMEDE on her arrival. Transit Canal 26/9 proceed to Jamaica to refuel and thence to Bermuda. Acknowledge by L/T. (C. in C. A.W.I., 17220/17 to S.O., West Indies Force.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. — Owing to adverse weather having been encountered it may be necessary for QUEEN OF BERMUDA to proceed to Newfoundland after leaving convoy C.F.2 to fuel before proceeding to Bermuda. Request you will inform her where to fuel should this be necessary. (C. in C. A.W.I., 17320/17 to C.C.N.F.)

PHOEBE damage. — My 1343A/5. Damage to PHOEBE involves extensive structural repair (details). PHOEBE will be ready to leave Mediterranean about mid-October. Request U.S. Authorities be asked to state if PHOEBE can be accepted and to nominate a Repair Yard. C. in C. Med. is being informed re his 0909/15 that repairs at Durban are not considered practicable. (D. of D., 1813A/17 to B.A.R.M.)

Greek Ships, crew trouble. — Pass to N.C.S.O's. Following message has been sent from M.O.W.T. to their representatives in America and South Africa (begins). There is a risk of crew trouble developing at U.S.A. Ports on Greek ships calling at such ports for coal bunkers. Greek ships are to omit this call in future and should bunker sufficiently at Brazil or West Indies ports so as to limit their requirements at Halifax to 5/600 tons. Those Greek ships under ten knots which without shutting out cargo can so bunker at Brazil or West Indies that their requirements in Canada can be limited to 300 tons should be routed to Sydney C.B. for bunkers. (Ends). (D.T.D.1858A/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Ships Refitting U.S.A publication. — Your 1003R/16. My 0134A/16 to B.A.R.M. Washington, stated there was no objection to proposed relaxation subject to additional restriction no speculation should be allowed of the expected date of departure of any of H.M. Ships. (D.P.D. 1906A/17 to B.A.D.)

/Atlantic

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - contd.

Atlantic convoy escorts.

"Cinclant" has informed C.C.N.F.
1. That instructions for Westbound escorts will be conveyed to them by S.O.P.A. Iceland but by A.C.I.C.
2. That oil fuel will be available from U.S. Naval Tankers.
3. That C.C.N.F. is expected to conduct all other matters relating to maintenance and readiness for operations. With regard to (3) will HECLA or other R.N. Repair ship continue to be available in Iceland.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1950Z/17 to Admty.)

U.S. Groups.

A.M. 1811/14. Group 2.6 now leaves Bermuda 26/9 and passes vicinity of Bermuda on return journey to Hampton Roads arriving 10/10. (2) Group 2.7 passes vicinity of Bermuda on return journey and route is now adjusted so as to arrive Hampton Roads 26/9. (D.O.D.(F) 2250A/17 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

MOST SECRET

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### General.

German Signals. — Repeating D.S.D. 1803A/16.
(C. in C. W.A., 1832A/17 W.A. Gen. Message 193N.)

### Ships Attacked.

S.C.42 (attacked 11/9 etc.) — Following is a repetition of my 1231Z/16.
C. in C. W.A. Repeated A.C.O.S. N.O.i/c Aultbea from ST. CRIOX. Expect to arrive Loch Ewe 0800Z tomorrow 17th (ends) MOOSEJAW in company.
(ST. CRIOX, 0031Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
When fog cleared sighted much wreckage and very large oil patch. Life raft, cabin furniture, etc., badly smashed as though by violent explosion. Consider ship blew up and sank. No sign of life. Am rejoining S.C.42 NARCISSUS in company.
(ALBERNI, 0907Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.G.74. — 2230A/16 in 056° 30' N. 019° 25' W., 2 torpedoes fired at starboard bow escort. No hit. Sweep was carried out without result. Owing to visibility it is considered Convoy was not sighted. COWSLIP's 1621A/14, COWSLIP has not joined.
(DEPTFORD, 0925A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Wreckage. — Reported by RAMSAY at 1400Z/15 in 051° 40' N. 045° W.
(C.C.N.F., 1435Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
See America and West Indies, 1435/17.

SEGUNDO (torpedoed 17/8.) — Ref. N.C.S.I.296.
(A) SEGUNDO (B) 17/8 47.30 N. 87.00 W. (C) sunk with ship (G) Chief Officer. Norwegian, proceeding in convoy O.S.4. In ballast, sunk by one torpedo. 27 survivors landed Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1716N/17 to Admty.)

EINVIK (torpedoed 5/9.) — My 1558/13. Further boat with 11 survivors arrived Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C., 1725/17.)
Did not carry out diversion of Standard route broadcast to stragglers.
(D.T.D., 1837A/17.) See Shipping.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

17.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Submarines Reported.

Biscay. — Several U-boats expected to arrive North Bay of Biscay ports during next 2 days. Proceed patrol in vicinity position 120° D D 81 miles. (F.O.S., 1022A/17 to SEALION.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1434A/17.)

1530C. — By D/F at 1530C/17 U-boat in 68.58 N. 42.36 E. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1559C/17 to Admty.)

1558Z. — By D/F at 1558Z/17, German U-boat probably homeward bound, was in approx. 47° 30' N. 10° 40' W. (D.D.I.C. 1752A/17 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

### Submarines Attacked.

By RENONCULE. — Have established S/M contact and dropped depth charges in 058° 53' N., 006° 24' W., contact lost, observed no oil or wreckage. (RENONCULE, 0745A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0745A/17 am again in contact and am carrying out attack. Probably 2 submarines. (RENONCULE, 1135A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
Re RENONCULE's 0745/17 and 1135A/17, sailed M/L 227 to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1420A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

By Hudson A/C. — Am over enemy S/M in 48.40 N., 10.30 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 030° speed 6 knots. Have attacked with bombs (level) and depth charges. Result unknown. (A/C Q/233, 0935/17 to 19 Group, T.O.R. 0957/17) (D.S. 743.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Operation

3 M.T.B's with 2 M.G.B's in support were despatched from Dover early this morning, to attack a convoy plotted leaving Boulogne. Just before making contact M.T.B's 55 and 70 collided and were seriously damaged, and the entire force had to retire. All vessels returned safely.

Russian Operations.

Soviet submarine K.2. returned to Murmansk from patrol off Vardo today and reports that she sank a laden 3000 to 4000 ton merchant vessel by gunfire on 12/9 in 70° 40' N., 30° 30' E. This was the only vessel sighted during an 8 day patrol

British Air Operations

Coastal Command aircraft attacked St. Nazaire Submarine Base last night.

11 Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked the Grand Queville Power Station at Rouen today. Shipping off the Dutch coast was also attacked, a 1000 ton ship apparently being hit off Ijmuiden. A merchant vessel of 5000 tons was hit by Blenheims of Bankenberghe, and the Blenheims' fighter escort report that at least 2 of the escorting Flak ships were sunk and that on the return journey an R boat was set on fire.

During the afternoon 4 Hurricanes attacked 4 minesweepers off Ostend and so damaged them that all four were either sunk or left sinking.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

## SITUATION REPORT

### Enemy Air Operations

Convoy F.N. 20. — WESTMINSTER escorting F.N. 20 engaged with 4 inch and apparently destroyed a Junkers 88 early this afternoon in 54° 0' N., 0° 12' E. The convoy was bombed at 2003 in 54° 14' N., 0° 48' W. but there were no hits except SS LEIKANGER who had a U.X.B. on deck.

### Mining

Operation H.F. — MANXMAN laid mines in the early hours of today off the French north west coast.

A/C Minelaying — 10 aircraft laid mines last night in the Heligoland Bight and 2 off Brest.

Thames Estuary. — Aircraft minelaying apparently took place again last night in the Thames Estuary. One mine was detonated today.

### Shipping and Convoys

East Coast portions of H.X. and S.C. convoys are to proceed to Loch Ewe whether they arrive North or South of the Minches.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

A Fulmar aircraft was catapulted from SPRINGBANK at 1400 today to attack a Focke Wolfe A/C approaching H.G. 73 in 35.57 N., 08.30 W. Fulmar fired one gun continuously, but remainder jammed after firing a short burst at 150 yards. Enemy A/C evaded action and jettisoned his bombs.

South Atlantic

Raider search

Force F. (DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE) left St. Helena at 1900 today to patrol in K. 35 A and B until necessary to return to St. Helena for fuel.
DORSETSHIRE is to join South Atlantic Station instead of LONDON and to be employed as required by C. in C. S.A.

Vichy French convoy.

Capetown reports (A.1.) that a Vichy convoy of 3 merchant ships from Saigon is expected at Madagascar on 25/9.

Mediterranean

Concerted Operations by 4 S/M's.

UPHOLDER, operating with UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT and URSULA reported that she secured one hit on each of two large liners at 0406 today in 33.01 N., 14.51 E. (N.E. of Tripoli).
At 0705 URSULA torpedoed a liner of the VULCANIA class. At 0851 UPHOLDER again attacked and sank one of the two damaged liners with two torpedoes.

/Enemy units....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

**Mediterranean-Contd.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Enemy units. | D/F bearings at 1100 G.M.T. placed an Italian warship (call sign 4 A.Q.) in 33.00 N., 14.30 E. going eastwards. Other bearings indicated considerable activity off the Tripolitarian Coast. |
| Naval aircraft attacks. | 5 Swordfish attacked a convoy, sighted off West Sicily by R/C Swordfish, at 0145 today off Trapani. A possible torpedo hit was scored on a 6000 ton ship. |
| | 7 Swordfish attacked a convoy at 2105 in 35° 17' N., 12° 15' E, but no results were seen. |
| Libya and Western Desert. | 5 Wellingtons bombed and mined Tripoli last night. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour. |
| Egypt and Suez Canal. | Alexandria was raided by 6 aircraft shortly before midnight last night; no Service damage or casualties resulted. |
| Beirut | The cable cutting operation proposed by C. in C. Med. on 31/7 is not to be carried out until Admiralty instructions are received. |

**East Indies**

| | |
|---|---|
| Persian Gulf | Bandar Shahpur and Bandar Shah are to be known for all British official purposes as Bandar Gulf and Bandar Caspian. |

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

S.C. Escorts — C.N.S., Ottawa, has been asked if the destroyers and corvettes allocated to local duties can be reduced, to increase those available to Commodore, Newfoundland, for S.C. convoys, if possible in sufficient numbers to release all R.N. ships at present in Newfoundland Force.

CAP DES PALMES, which is proceeding to Tahiti with Free French personnel, will return to U.S.A. to be fitted as an armed merchant cruiser for service in the Pacific under the Free French.

Date for the return of RESOLUTION to home waters was notified by the Admiralty today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Cruiser requirements.**

A.M.1342A/9. Cancel para 2.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0049A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

**PRINCE BAUDOUIN.**

Will be included in W.S.12. and she should be prepared to sail accordingly. No personnel will be embarked. (D. of S.T., 0138A/18 to D.S.T. Avonmouth).
A.T.2343A/16, N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1759A/17 and D. of S.T., 0138A/18. PRINCE BAUDOUIN is to break off from convoy W.S.12 to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining convoy if possible. If this is not possible ship is to proceed independently to Freetown at best speed.
(D.O.D. (F) 1057A/18).
Your 1759A/17. On completion of refit PRINCE BAUDOUIN should be sailed to Clyde to await convoy.
(D.O.D. (H) 1321A/18 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

**Dover M.T.B's.**

As recent experience has shown that Hall Scott engined boats can operate successfully from Dover suggest that 5th Flotilla be temporarily transferred from Felixstowe to re-inforce F.O.C. Dover's force. (R.A.C.F., 0950/18 to Admty).
As a result of this morning's operation there are now no boats remaining in 11th M.T.B. Flotilla fit for service. Four boats of 6th Flotilla are available. To take advantage of situation created by sailing of enemy shipping in the Strait by night and present spell of fine weather, request that the number of available M.T.B's at Dover may be brought up to eight, by the loan of four boats of another fully trained flotilla under their S.O. Recommend that 11th Flotilla should be reformed elsewhere as boats become available and sent to Dover when worked up as a flotilla. (V.A. Dover, 1019A/18 to Admty).
V.A. Dover's 1019/18, not to all addressees, request you will transfer 5th M.T.B.Flotilla to Dover Command temporarily.
(D.D.O.D. (C) 1535A/18 to C. in C. Nore).
Admty 1535A/18. M.T.B's 44, 45, 47, 48 are to be sailed for Dover as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 2114A/18 to BEEHIVE).

**Destroyers.**

R.A.D. 1600A/18 See Operations Volume.

**Signals.**

Changes to be made at 0001 G.M.T. 7/10.
(D.S.D., 1811A/18 "A" Message) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Russian Co-operation.

Russian S/M operations.

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 2217C/18, 2219C/18. See Operations Volume.

### Movements.

Home Fleet.

Visibility improved cancel my 2236A/17. (C. in C. H.F., 0542A/18).

CANTON.

My 0930A/16/9 CANTON delayed and will not sail from Clyde until 7/10 approx. (S.O.W.P., 1030A/18 to Admty).

BURRA.

Intend sailing A/S Tr. BURRA as additional escort convoy O.S.7 on 22/9 for Freetown in accordance A.M. 1402/15/5 for onward routeing to Mediterranean via the Cape breaking off to coal at Fayal and at Bathurst if necessary. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258/18 to Admty).

TIGRIS.

Rendezvous as previously arranged. Your escort will be motor patrol boats or STHORM class destroyers depending on weather conditions. Admty pass to H.M.S. TIGRISin S.P. 02319 (23) (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1851C/18).

ETHIOPIAN
WALLFLOWER
NIGELLA.

WALLFLOWER and NIGELLA are to arrive Oban A.M./27
2. N.O.I.C. Oban is to sail ETHIOPIAN escorted by WALLFLOWER, NIGELLA to Freetown when ready.
3. Route will be signalled.
4. Arrangements will be made for fuelling at Ponta Delgada (C. in C., W.A. 1932A/18)

### Operations.

TRIDENT.

My 1903A/17. This information is for Russian staff and/or S/M crews. Not for general publication. (D.D.I.C., 0013A/18 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

E-boat.

Possible indication of E-boat vicinity of 54. G buoy at 0030. (C. in C. Nore, 0103A/18 to Ships on E.coast convoy duties).

/M.T.Bs.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

M.T.Bs. 55 and 70 damaged.

M.T.Bs. 55 and 70 and 218 were despatched at 0415 to attack convoy plotted leaving Boulogne North Eastward at 0330. M.G.Bs. 8 and 10 were sailed in support. At about 0510 just before making contact with the enemy M.T.B's 55 and 70 collided and whole force had to retire. All vessels now returned safely. Both M.T.Bs seriously damaged. (V.A. Dover, 0715A/18).
My 0715A/18. Enemy ship with escorts which passed through Dover Strait to-day proceeded between the Outer Ruytingen and Le Dyck, through the Ruytingen Pass and outside the Inner Ruytingen. These vessels were attacked and damaged by aircraft west of Knocke about 1020. Proposals for mining the channel between the Ruytingen and Dyck Banks are being forwarded. (V.A. Dover, 1317A/18 to Admty, C. in C. Nore).

73rd A/S group.

Your 1931A/16. Anticipate that endurance of 73rd A/S group will be improved on return passage by better bunkering and two days deck cargo, so that it may be possible for them to reach Scapa without coaling. Endurance 17 days at 8½ knots is hoped. Admiralty pass to S.B.N.O. Murmansk. (ELECTRA, 1243C/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

M.T.B. Patrol.

Following received from BEEHIVE. Your 1422/17. Nothing to report.
(C. in C. Nore, 1244A/18 to Admty).

German Units.

3 German transports and one cruiser observed 1230 hours at Helsingborg going North.
(Goteborg, 1300/18 to Admty).
Following reports received:-
(A) Visual long cruiser like ship 25 to 30 miles from Saxa Vord at 1600/18.
(B) R.D.F. contact bearing 289° 23 miles from Saxa Vord course 240° at 1755/18.
(2) Two destroyers are to proceed with all despatch to intercept enemy to Westward of N Rona Faeroes minefield.
(3) Four destroyers are to patrol between Orkneys and Sule Skerry in view of possibility of minelaying
(4) Remaining destroyers keep steam at 15 minutes notice. (C. in C. H.F., 1940A/18 to R.A.D.)
My 1940/18. Proceed when ready to westwards pending further information. Keep area A W/T organisation. (C. in C. H.F., 1944A/18 to LONDON)
Cancelled, see 2239A/18.

/A.E.S.....

## HOME COMMANDS

### Operations

German Units -Contd.

A.E.S. Saxa-Vord reports (A) visual sighting long Cruiser-like ship 25 to 30 miles at 1600/18 (b) R.D.F. contact bearing 289° 23 miles, from Saxa-Ford course 240° at 1755/18. Aircraft are investigating. (A.C.O.S. 2024/18 to Admty.) My 1940/18. Aircraft now reports two merchant vessels (800 tons) in 60.50 N., 01.25 W., at 1930/18. Course 210° speed 5 knots.
(2) Two destroyers are to investigate these ships, remaining destroyers return to harbour.
(3) My 1944/18 is cancelled.
(C. in C., H.F. 2239A/18)
C. in C. H.F. 2239A/18. MATABELE, PUNJABI proceed to investigate. Remainder return to harbour.
(R.A.D. 2310A/18 to MATABELE, PUNJABI, ASHANTI, IMPULSIVE, VIVACIOUS.)

Nore Patrols.

Patrol tonight. 3 M.L's. 3 M.G's. proceeding to eastwards from Aldeburgh Buoy at 1945 returning daylight. 3 M.T.B's return Eriboll from Eastwards, at daylight. (C. in C. Nore, 1447A/18 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

KINGSTON BERYL

Your 0255A/18 immediately weather clears proceed with all despatch. If not met Port Patrick R/V proceed to R/V Altacarr 8 miles. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0555A/18 to KINGSTON BERYL)

TETELA (E/B attack 17/9).

My 0440A/17 and 0750A/17. SABINE returned Immingham at 0850/18. United Towing Co's tug IRISHMAN remaining in attendance on TETELA. (F.O. Humber, 1929A/18)

### British Air Activity

Attack on F/W by MAPLIN A/C, 14/9.

Hurricane W. 9215 Pilot Sub.Lt.(A) C. Walker R.N.V.R. catapulted from MAPLIN 1200/14 app.100 miles S.W. of Ireland. Attacks delivered on Focke Wolfe from ahead astern, and abeam over a period of about one hour. Enemy A/C eventually jettisoned bombs from above cloud and left Convoy. Pilot abandoned A/C by parachute when petrol exhausted. Picked up by ROCHESTER, L.F. Wilson, Lieut. R.N. (804 Sqdn. Sydenham, 1009A/18 to Admty.)

/Recognition....

## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity. - Contd.

**Recognition Signalling.** Your 1804A/16. U.S. aircraft now in Iceland have been supplied with British pyrotechnic cartridges and pistols.
(A.C.I.C., 1337/18 to Admty).

**Patrols.** "Stab", "Bert", "Hornli", in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1406/18 to C. in C. H.F. etc).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Convoy F.N.20.** 1 A/C Shadowing me approx. course 050° my position 54.00 N., 00.12 E. (WESTMINSTER, 1335/18).
My 1335. Junkers 88 at 50 feet engaged with 4 inch and thought to have hit water. Am investigating. (WESTMINSTER, 1345/18).
My 1345. Aircraft apparently sunk, can find no trace of wreckage in approx. position. (WESTMINSTER, 1415/18).
Request fighters may be sent to assistance of convoy "Prize" (F.N.20).
(VORTIGERN, 1947/18).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Prize" my position 54.14 N., 00.48 W. (WESTMINSTER, 2003/18).
My 2003, several bombs, no hits except S.S. LEIKANGER who has U.X.B. on deck.
(WESTMINSTER, 2015/18).
Fighters have been sent to assistance of convoy "Prize". (Rosyth, 2017/18).

**Incendiary discs.** Re. incendiary discs washed up on Cromer Beach.
(F.O. Humber, 2115A/18 to F.O. Yarmouth).

### Mining.

**Operation H.F.** Arrived 0720 MANXMAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0737A/18)

**Operation Q.L. 2.** My 1508A/15. Carry out operation Q.L. (2) tonight Thursday. (C. in C. Nore, 0944A/18 to BEEHIVE).

/Mine.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.- Contd.

Mine Warning.

0850 G.M.T. to all stations. Mine warning. Yesterday 1700 G.M.T. a horn mile (?mine) observed 6 dist. minutes S.W. Morups Taonge light. (Cullercoats Radio, 0950/18 to Adm. Rosyth).

Operation N.L.25, N.L.24.

Intend to carry out tonight 18/9 operation N.L. 25 from position 50° 57' 36" N., 01° 37' 12" E. If conditions permit. Alternatively operation will be N.L.24 from position 51° 01' 48" N., 01° 56' 12" E. (V.A. Dover, 1145A/18 to Admty).

Mine-Watching Clyde.

Following received after two tugs had been sunk by mine in Clyde. "Admiralty from F.O.I.C. Glasgow. This regrettable incident draws attention to paramount importance of accurate mine-watching. I am informed by the Scottish Command that Home Guard who are at present carrying out this duty with zeal are to be withdrawn on 1/10. It is understood that naval ratings will be sent to the Clyde by Admty., as and when available. Urged that strongest representation be made to retain the services of Home Guard until naval ratings are sufficient in number and adequately trained to give a reasonable measure of security.1254A/10." Very much appreciated if above could be arranged or that a proportion could remain until training of naval ratings is completed, as a great deal of importance is attached to this organisation. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1356A/18 to W.O. G.O.C. Home Forces.)

Mines, Thames Estuary.

Enemy air activity over Thames Estuary during night 17/18 was confined to first half of the middle watch. Following evidence of enemy minelaying (details). (S.O.T.L.D.F., 1429/18 to C. in C. Nore).

9th M.S.F.

Your 1235/18. (requesting information of 9th M.S.F) Following ships of 9th M.S.F. will arrive Portland this evening. BANGOR, BRIDLINGTON, BUDE, BLACKPOOL. All available ships of 9th M.S.F. are at present employed sweeping W.P. and P.W. convoys. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1813A/18 to M.S.9 in SIDMOUTH).

BORDE.

Your 1144A/11. Request you will sail BORDE to Bristol Channel as convenient. On arrival she will operate under orders of F.O.I.C. Cardiff. (D.M.S., 1839A/18 to C. in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.9.1941. Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Intelligence.

German Ships. At Helsingborg. (Goteborg, 1300/18) See Operations.

Norwegian Coast. Ship movements. (N.A. Sotckholm, 1925/18). Disposition of M.Vs. (A.N.A., Stockholm 2137/18) See Lion Copy.

### Navigation.

Wreck, Sheringham. Wreck located 247° Sheringham buoy 1.4 miles. Staff with red flag lashed to mast and dan Buoy with blue flag moored alongside. (F.O. Humber, 1510A/18). Request report whether this is an additional wreck or whether wreck of BIRTLEY has moved to this position. (C. in C. Nore, 2112A/18 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

### Casualties & Defects.

TEDDINGTON aground. TEDDINGTON now ashore position 080° 4,800 yards from Cromer Pier shore end. Vessel gutted out from stern to forward of engine room and fire still raging, No. 3 hold amidships. Have requested Admty Salvage Dept. to send small coaster in readiness if fire put out. FORDE now alongside and mail bags have been salved into Trawler CHARLES DORAN. Master and 12 men now assisting on board. Request crew now Yarmouth wait further orders. Cannot state if possible salve wreck at present. Request air protection, position very exposed. Vessel is foul of boom defence making approach to wreck difficult. (F.O. Humber, 0927A/18 F.O. Gt. Yarmouth 1545A/18, 1547A/18, 1605A/18 1729A/18 1759A/18 to Admty).

MOOSEJAW. N.O.I.C.Aultbea 1225/17. MOOSEJAW can be taken in hand by Fairfield, Govan, for damage repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1146A/18)

KIRKPOOL. O.N.16. KIRKPOOL returned with holed bow having been in collision. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1236A/18). My 1142A/17 re KIRKPOOL in collision. No other ship in convoy being in collision and no sign of any damage. At 0600A/17 in position 299° Butt of Lewis 118 miles strong smell of oil fuel as from torpedoed tanker. Wind force 1 South. D.6 informed about oil fuel. Fresh wreckage also seen. O.N.16 4 hours late on 2000/17 situation. (S.O. 8th Escort Group, 1742/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12 — Amendments to composition and embarkation programme. (D.S.T., 0142A/18 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).
In addition to destroyer escort required for D.S.12 B you are requested to detail 2 destroyers for convoy duty with W.S.12 (date).
If BRIGHTON can be made available by this date she also will be required. (A.C.N.S. (H)1930A/18 to R.A.(M)).

DURBAN CASTLE. — Is due Liverpool 21/9. Personnel on board, R.N.238, Army 456, M.M. 207, R.A.F., 100. King of Greece and Suite, and Adm. Leatham, late C. in C. E. I., also on board. Cargo. Further signal will be sent as to her future service. Request report sea speed vessel will be able to maintain when ready to sail U.K. (D.S.T., 0143A/18 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

PRINCE DAVID. — Forced to heave to 2300Z/17. Convoy proceeded towards rendezvous. PRINCE DAVID now proceeding Halifax. (PRINCE DAVID, 1130Z/18).

H.X.148. — Congratulations on bringing in your convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1710A/18 to Rear Adm. O.H. Dawson). Arrived except one ship sunk in collision. 34 British, 1 neutral, 12 allied ships. (D.S. 746, 20/9).

H.G.72. — Congratulations on bringing all ships safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1751A/18 to Commodore Gill R.N.R.) 17 ships including 3 neutral and 2 allied. Cargoes. (D.S., 743, 17/9).

Use of Loch Ewe. — East Coast portion of H.X. and S.C. Convoys should normally proceed to L. Ewe whether they arrive North or south of the Minches. (D.T.D., 1810A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

**French Convoys.**

Passing Gibraltar 16/9, 17/9.
(D.O.R., 18/9.)

**CLYDE.**

Admty. 1813A/27, intend to sail CLYDE for Freetown p.m./22 spending two days in Canary Islands area. CLYDE will pass through 020° 47' N. 019° 00' W. at 1200A/28 S. of A. 13 knots request you arrange onward route. It would be appreciated if accommodation for CLYDE could be arranged in EDINBURGH CASTLE or ashore. CLYDE is painted light grey.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

**French Ships.**

Passings 17/9 French westward BRESTOIS full OUED TIFLET in ballast.
(V.A.C.N.A., 0919A/18 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

**GERMANIA (German)**

Your 1137/17, cargo of petrol was discharged to local refinery.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1133/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)

**PORTSEA aground.**

Depth of water at San Juan de Aznalfarache steadily falling. PORTSEA drawing 13 feet has been aground since 11/9 and will probably not float before 23/9.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1511/18 to Admty.)

**German Ships.**

Following German ships expected to be in Sagunto Area en route Genoa with Ore at approx. same time within next 48 hours. (1) OTTO LEONHARDT (2) ELISABETH HENRIK FISSER.
(D.N.I., 1724A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

**SPRINGBANK, A/C attack on F/W.**

SPRINGBANK catapulted Fulmar 1400/18 to attack Focke Wolfe approaching H.G.73 in 035° 57' N. 008° 30' W. A/C landed Gibraltar at 1600. Fulmar fired one gun continuously, remainder jammed after firing short burst at 150 yards. Enemy A/C took evasive action and jettisoned bombs. Failure of guns being investigated.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1822A/18 to Admty.)

**A/C for Gibraltar.**

Three long-range Hudsons of 233 Sqdn. required to leave St. Eval for Gibraltar p.m./20/9. 200 Group's A 170 of 17/9 to H.Q.C.C. only refers. My ASD/102 of 5/9 and ASD/108 of 16/9 repeated to Admty. refer.
(H.Q.C.C., 1830/18 to 19 Group.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

C.M.19. Your 1743/16, no objection to use of EASTERN PRINCE for C.M.19.
(D.S.T., 0139A/18 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)

REPULSE, W.S.11. Departure 1555/18 REPULSE, ocean escort W.S.11.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0301N/18.)

BULOLO. Proceed to arrive Simonstown in accordance with my 1055/7 unless within 400 miles when proceed direct.
(C. in C. S.A., 0607N/18 to BULOLO.)

Force F. On completion of fuelling proceed to patrol in (?K) 35 A and B with particular reference to calm area shown on chart 7 189 until necessary to return St. Helena for fuel.
(C. in C. S.A., 0609N/18 to S.O. Force F.)
See 2015/18.

TYNDAREUS. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1205/17 TYNDAREUS arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1015B/18.)

SITN. Overdue shipping. Swedish SITN due Capetown 13th from Trinidad not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1041B/18 to Admty.)

Vichy Convoy. B.A.D. Washington 1751/10 (1757/10 intended ?) Report A.1. that Convoy consisting of 3 merchant ships from Saigon is E.T.A. Madagascar on 25/9.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1123/18 to Admty., etc.)

Suspicious W/T. At ? 0035Z/15 Simonstown W/T read call G 2 U from N N 5 break P. This was repeated several times until 0851. It was made on all waves but nothing else was received. Investigation proves these calls were not made by PRETORIA CASTLE.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1136B/18 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

/SOBIESKY.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| SOBIESKY, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. | S.S.T.O. Freetown 2157/15. Request you will sail SOBIESKY, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, and A.M.C. escort to arrive in approx. 49° N. (date) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for inward A/S escort amending R/V as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1257A/18 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| WILDWOOD. | Have you any news of American WILDWOOD from Lisbon due 12/9 ? (D.T.D., 1357A/18 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.) |
| ALCANTARA, CARNARVON CASTLE. | Your 2025N/11. Concur. Request CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving Tristan da Cunha may adjust speed so as to arrive anchorage F O at daylight 7/10. (R.A.S.A.D., 1501Z/18 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.i/c Simonstown, CARNARVON CASTLE.) |
| NESTOR. | Admty. 1824/17. NESTOR is to leave Freetown at 1600/19 and proceed to Gibraltar at S. of A. 15 knots (route) to Gibraltar, to be adjusted arrived 12 noon 25/9. (C. in C. S.A., 1631N/18 to NESTOR.) |
| DORSETSHIRE. | Admty. 1532/20/6. DORSETSHIRE is to join South Atlantic Station instead of LONDON, to be employed as required by C. in C. S.A. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1942A/18 to C's in C.) |
| Force F. | St. Helena departures EAGLE, DORSETSHIRE, 1900/18 on operations. (General, St. Helena, 2015/18 to Admty., etc.) |
| Corvettes. | Policy re employment. (C. in C. S.A., 2057N/18, 2316N/18 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| Cruisers. | A.C.N.S.(F) 2311A/18. See Operations Volume. |

MOST SECRET

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

PROTEUS. E.T.A. 009° E. 2000/18. Request onward route. (PROTEUS, 0025B/18 to V.A. Malta.)

PROTEUS, UNIQUE, UTMOST. Following positions established (F) 036° 07' 014° 16' (G) 036° 30' 013° 30' (H) 037° 15' 012° 55' (J) 038° 00' 011° 40'. Adjust speed to make passage (J) to (H) submerged during daylight 20/9 thence through (G) and (F) and via searched channel to arrive Marsaxlokk (Marsa Scirocco) 0700B/22. Anticipate UNIQUE arrives (J) from N.E. 0530B/18 proceeding (H) same day. UTMOST leave (F) 1830B/18 direct for (H) proceed (J) during daylight/19 and thence N.E. at about 2000B same day. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0238B/18 to PROTEUS.)

Service Personnel. Up to 150 Army personnel of whom not more than 60 officers and 150 R.A.F. personnel may be carried in unescorted ships. Further signal will be made imposing limitation on number of R.A.F. who may be air crews. This at present 25. Agreed Air Ministry and Sea Transport. (W.O., 0250/18 to C. in C. M.E.)

Enemy Ships. 2 Merchant ships damaged in 033° 01' 014° 51'. (UPHOLDER, 0419B/18 to V.A. Malta.)

TRIUMPH, Adriatic. TRIUMPH assumes everything floating in Adriatic is fair game. If this is not so, please inform him. Recent information re route of Bauxite traffic would assist. (Capt. S.10., 0955B/18 to Capt. S.1.)

Alexandria air raid. 2230 to 2350/17. 6 planes attacked Aboukir using flares. Civilian casualties only. 3 fighters, no interception. (R.A. Alexandria, 1015B/18 to Admty., H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/18 to Air Min.)

PHOEBE. Your 0909C/15. Permanent repairs to PHOEBE are considered beyond Durban's capacity. Repair yard will be signalled as soon as known. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1053A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

/SHOREHAM.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SHOREHAM, FALMOUTH.

Your 0758Z/9. Request SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH may be placed under the orders of C.S.15 on arrival in northern part of Red Sea about 1/10. C.S.15 is in charge of protection of shipping in Gulf of Suez having NAIAD, GALATEA, COVENTRY, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO, PARRAMATTA at present under his orders. 2 Hunts will be under his orders on arrival.
(C. in C. Med., 1118B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Benghazi bombed. Bardia bombed.

Night 16/17, 5 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour installations Benghazi.
Day 17/9, 9 Marylands bombed stores dumps at Bardia starting 4 large fires.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1153/18.)

C.M.18.

Convoy C.M.18 arrived 0900Z/18.
(N.C.S.O. Suez, 1257/18.)

GLENROY, CLAN FORBES, Port W.

C. in C. China 0351/13. Intend to sail GLENROY and CLAN FORBES on 20/9, loaded with personnel and stores indicated in my 1325/11. Request you will arrange storage of equipment and accommodation of personnel for Port W. until port is ready to receive them.
(C. in C. Med.,1332B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Beirut Cable.

Your 1911C/31/7, and Admty. 1716/28/8 (N.T. in W.D.) Has Gen. Catroux been consulted about the cutting of cable, if so what were his reactions? If not, delay this consultation pending further instructions which will reach you. Cable should not be cut till instructions received.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1623A/18 to C. in C. Med.)

2 schooners sunk.

17/9. 4 Blenheims on Shipping Sweep attacked M/V 1000 tons, Tug, and 2 laden Schooners 800 tons near Cduara (my 1130, 17/9, Blenheims to attack ships southbound E. of Zarzis.) 4 x 500 lb. bombs hit 1 schooner. Mass of flames, crew 25 all jumped into sea, ship still burning when aircraft far away, claimed total loss. Second schooner hit and blew up with aircraft whose bombs hit it. Opposition heavy, M/G. fire from 1 schooner. 2 aircraft returned.

/1 aircraft.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 18.9.1941. Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

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|---|---|
| 2 Schooners sunk - Contd. Tripoli bombed and mined. | 1 aircraft blown up with the explosion of schooner, the other shot down into sea by M/G. fire. Night 17/18, 5 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli 2 mines dropped in Harbour bombs dropped 11,750 lbs. Hits on Native Quarter centre and southern part of town and vicinity of power house no fire or explosion seen. Opposition less than usual, all aircraft returned, weather very bad.<br>5 Swordfish attacked Convoy sighted by R/C Swordfish off West Sicily. Attacked at 0145 hours off Trapani, 3 torpedoes dropped 1 explosion seen, possbile hit 1 M/V 6000 tons, dense smoke screen obscured observation results. A.A. from Convoy and shore batteries. All returned.<br>(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/18.) |
| Italian Unit. | From D/F bearings Italian Warship Call Sign 4 A.Q. was in 033° 00' N. 014° 30' E., at 1100 G.M.T./18 going Eastwards. Other bearings indicate considerable activity off the Triotanian (? Tripolitanian) Coast.<br>(C.O.S. Alexandria, 1632B/18 to V.A. Malta.) |
| ST. BRIEUC. (French) | Arrived 17/9.<br>(Barcelona, 1846/18.) |
| S/M's. | Congratulations. Return to Malta forthwith making E.T.A. when safe to do so. Any lone merchant ship encountered within 50 miles Malta is not to be molested.<br>(Capt. S.10, 2140B/18 to UPHOLDER, UPRIGHT, etc.) |

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 18.9.1941.
Thursday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

HOHENFELS. (German.) My 1252/17. Request action be postponed for a few days. KANIMBLA hopes to be able to float the ship.
(C. in C.E.I., 0516Z/18, to Admty.)

SYGNA. Your 1951/16 arrived 15/9. Delay due to engine trouble, see S.O.(1) Colombo 0740/16.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1024Z/18, to Adty.)

CARTHAGE. Sailed in accordance with C. in C.E.I., 0742Z/17. (N.T. in W.D.) N.O.I.C. Mauritius pass to Rodriguez.
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 1152Z/18, to C. in C.E.I.)

Tugs. My 1412/6. Request immediate steps may be taken to increase the number of tugs on East Indies Station. Details.
(C. in C.E.I., 1352Z/18, to Admty.)

Bandar Gulf. Bandar Caspian. Bandar Shahpur and Bandar Shah are to be known for all British Official purposes as Bandar Gulf and Bandar Caspian.
(Head of M. 1747A/18 to C. in C.E.I.)

Supplies for Jibuti. Aden reports supplies are reported to be reaching Jibuti in substantial quantities across land Frontier from Assab etc., and occupied enemy territory. Administration are anxious encourage dhow traffic with Assab. Ends.
2. I have no other evidence of leakages but encouragement of dhow traffic with Assab would seem to conflict with policy of stricter blockade.
3. Unless there are reasons of which I am not aware, it is not desirable to encourage traffic at present.
(C. in C.M.E. 2250/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.9.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Dutch Forces. My 0327C/29/6. Can proposed system now be accepted as in force between British and Dutch Forces? Dutch Naval C. in C. is assuming this is so pending final British U.S.A. Dutch agreement.
(C. in C. China, 0809Z/18, to Admty.)

China. Re question of supplies for China, at forthcoming Conference.
(30 M.M. Moscow, 1309/18, to W.O.)

CAP DES PALMES. Admty., 1744A/17. French Ship CAP DES PALMES will reach Panama Canal in company with F.F.S.CHEVREUIL on 22/9 thereafter proceeding to Tahiti with Free French personnel. 2. CAP DES PALMES will subsequently return to U.S.A., to be fitted as an A.M.C. for service in Pacific under Free French.
3. F.F.S.LE TRIOMPHANT is requested to inform Free French High Commissioner.
(D.O.D.(F) 1711A/18 to C. in C. China.)

KINDIA. (French.) Departure for Yokohama.
(Shanghai 2350Z/18.)

America & West Indies.

LIVERPOOL. Your 1530A/31. As ORION has only a reduced complement on board it will not be possible to complete LIVERPOOL from her except as regards officers. Is it acceptable for LIVERPOOL to sail with a reduced complement? Only alternative is to draw on WARSPITE or MANCHESTER. Number available in latter is not known and men are required from her for guard in CATLIN at Philadelphia (my 1328R/9) and for 4 fast merchant vessels being manned.
(B.A.R.M. 0850R/18, to Admty.)

/S.C.46.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.46, S.C.45. BURWELL defective but will be ready to escort S.C.46. PICTOU will replace BURWELL as escort S.C.45. O.P.N.A.V. pass to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.)
(C.C.N.F., 1219Z/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

GVAS II, damaged while leaving slip. My 1523/29/8. GVAS II was refloated on 16/9 and towed to Yard. Damage underwater is confined to area abreast boiler room but ship is not leaking. Docking will be carried out at first opportunity.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1231Q/18 to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. C. in C. A. & W.I. 1732Q/17. If necessary fuel St. Johns, N.F.
(C.C.N.F., 1314Z/18 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

S/M's in U.S.A. Your 1206/17 approved.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1609A/18 to B.A.R.M.)
B.A.R.M. 1206R/17, para.2. Request confirmation that one of these submarines will be required for A/S training at St. Johns, N.F. Minutes of 17th meeting of Battle of Atlantic Committee refers. If confirmed, request B.A.R.M. may be so informed and that spare gear for one submarine only will be required in U.K.
(F.O.(S) 1807A/18 to Admty.)

MEROPE. (French Tanker) Arrived Vera Cruz.
(Tampico, 1616/18.)

Escorts, H.X.151, H.X.150, O.N.18. U.S. Ocean Escorts for H.X.151 DECATUR, KEARNEY, LEAAY, BABBITT, LIVERMORE; H.X.150, ERICSSON, DALLAS, UPSHUR, ELLIS, EBERLE. O.N.18, HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON, ANT, GLEAVES, from "Cinclant".
(Opnav, 1710/18 to Admty.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 0953Q/17. Anticipate F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT will be in vicinity of Tahiti from 21/9 till 7/10.
(D.O.D.(F) 1729A/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/RESOLUTION.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 18.9.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

RESOLUTION. Admty. 1905A/3. Instructions for passage to U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1910A/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. W.A.) See Operational Pages.

Catalinas. Reply to Admty. 1131A/7.
(Govt. of Canada 1954/18.)
See Lion Copy.

H.X.150, O.N.18, H.X.151, S.C.45, S.C.46. Ocean escorts H.X.150, ARICSSON, DALLIS, UPSHUR, ELLIS, EBERLE; O.N.18 HUGHES, LANSDALE, MADISON, SIMPSON, GLEAVES; H.X.151 DECATUR, KEARNEY, LEARY, BABBITT, LIVERMORE; S.C.45 ST. LAURENT, BURWELL, BITTERSWEET, COLLINGWOOD, CHILLIWACK, SPIRENARD, DIANTHUS, SNOWBERRY; S.C.46 OTTAWA, RAMSLEY, BROADWAY, POLYANTHUS, COBALT, BUCTOUCHE, GALT, PICTOU, RIMOUSKI.
(Opnav, 2045/18 to Admty.)

S.C. Convoys. Re escorts and routes, policy. Admty. 1638/12 and C.N.S. Ottawa 1403Z/13.
(1st S.L., 2141A/18 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)
See Lion Copy.
Reply of C.N.S. Canada, 1407A/22.

BADALONA. Gibraltar's 1511/6/8. Spnaish BADALONA which sailed from Gibraltar 6/8 for Port Arthur has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2128Z/18 to Admty. etc.)
See 1316/20.

Task Force 3. MILWAUKEE WARRINGTON due Recife 20/9 from direction Cape Verde. OMAHA SOMERS due Recife 23/9 from St. Thomas. MEMPHIS DAVIS in St. Thomas until 20/9.
(Opnav, 2357/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.9.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

PEGASUS.
NEWBURY.

Sighted derelict, presumably Greek steamer PEGASUS, still afloat in 054° 54' N., 030° 32'W., at 0845A/17, but failed to sink it owing to very rough sea. Conducted intensive search 39 miles to leeward. NORTHERN DAWN has 13 survivors including Master all well from one boat. 2nd boat which had contained 16 persons has been sighted overturned with no survivors. LADY ELSA has searched the area in vicinity of NEWBURY Noon to 1330A/17 without success. Am in 055° 28' N., 030° 17' W., and am returning to Londonderry, speed and course 090° 8½ knots, with DIANELLA, MAN-O-WAR, NORTHERN DAWN, LADY ELSA in company, A.M./19.
(ALISMA, 0100A/18 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.42.
(attacked
11/9 etc.)

Commodore Mackenzie proposes to report 1000/20 request reply to Caldarvan Cartocharn 207.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1330A/18, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

2128Z/17.

By D/F at 2128Z/17, position of German U-Boat was possibly within 100 miles of 10° 00' N., 34°00'W. Message was repeated at 2208Z/17.(D.D.I.C.0616A/18) Your 0616/18, request very early information if any indication is obtained whether this submarine moving North or South.
(C. in C. S.A., 1056N/18 to Admty.)
Reply: Probably southbound.(D.D.I.C., 0142A/19.)

1304.

Enemy Submarine in 58.01N., 14.10 W., when sighted was on surface and observed to dive.
(A/C M., 1304/18 to ? 15 Group.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position (as 1304). Enemy course is 178° Vis. 2 No. (A/C M., 1330/18.)

18/9.

U.S.DELRIO on arrival Jacksonville reported sighting submarine submerged (outline of hull seen) in Northern part of Windward Passage on 18/9.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1434Z/18, to Admty., etc.)

Estimated dispositions of German U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1529A/18.)

Following has been read: Enemy Submarine in 59.53 N., 10.10 W. (A/C U., 1600/18.)

1650C.

By D/F U-boat in 068° 03' N., 040° 14' E., at 1650C/18. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1744C/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B. Operation.

3 M.T.Bs supported by 2 M.G.Bs were despatched from Dover at 2030/18 to intercept several vessels of unknown size plotted leaving Boulogne. M.G.Bs made contact at midnight when opposite Dieppe, and had a brief engagement on opposite courses with several small vessels and their escorts. Visibility was low and touch was lost; the M.T.Bs did not make contact. M.G.B.8 was slightly damaged by gunfire and M.T.B.38 developed engine trouble, but all craft returned to base by 0800 today. There were no casualties.

British Air Operations.

A small force attacked the inner docks at Le Havre last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.98 escorted by VALOROUS was bombed at 1937 in 53° 46' N., 0° 35' E. CITY OF DURBAN (A.M.C.) was hit by a 500 lb. bomb which did not explode and was removed later. One enemy aircraft was seen to crash into the sea; Air Ministry report that it was shot down by a naval unit.

Convoy E.C.75 was bombed early this afternoon in 52° 55' N., 1° 39' E., by about 8 enemy aircraft. S.S. PRESTATYN ROSE was damaged. Tug KENIA assisted by A/S Tr. GREENFLY got her into Harwich.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation Q.L.2. — Two motor launches laid mines last night off the French coast.

Mining of Thames Estuary. — There was no enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night but several mines detonated in the Estuary during the night and this morning. S.S. BRADGLEN was mined and sunk in 23° 2 miles B Buoy at 1039 today and Fishing boat GLEN ALVA L.O. 15 was sunk off Jenkins Buoy at 0946A.

Milford Haven area mined. — A mine laying attack was made in the Milford Haven area last night. Several mines self-detonated after being laid and others were detonated today. Milford Haven was re-opened subject to local restrictions at 1814.

South Atlantic.

Two corvettes from Freetown are to be sailed to join R.A.S.A.D. A force of this size is to be maintained on the east coast of South America as long as a possible threat from submarines exists in that area. (Dutch S.S. MARKEN was reported torpedoed and sunk in 1° 36' N., 36° 55' W., at 1753 zone time on 10/9 by a S/M)

Panamanian S.S. STANVAC reports that at 1130/14 in 4° 21' S., 34° 45' W., and again on 15/9 she sighted a suspicious vessel.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

10th S/M F. operations.

C. in C. Med., reports that the ships reported on 13/9 as having been sunk by S/M O.24 were a 6,000 ton laden ship in 42° 48' N., 9° 58' E., on 9/9 and on 6/9 a 1200 ton schooner by gunfire in 43° 35' N., 9° 21' E.

Malta.

Every effort will be made to keep the fortress supplied, but present policy is that no convoy should be considered for some months.

Gozo.

It has been decided not to undertake further reinforcements of Gozo at present.

Operation "Propeller".

EMPIRE GUILLEMOT arrived at Malta at 1625B today.

Libya and Western Desert.

Last night, 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and quays at Benghazi.
8 Wellingtons last night attacked 24,000 ton liner at Tripoli and report probable hits on it and on other shipping in the harbour. At 0300 3 Blenheims attacked the liner and an 8,000 ton merchant vessel and report 3 hits on the liner and 2 on the merchant ship. Two Blenheims were despatched to attack the liner this evening but failed to find her. One of the Blenheims attacked and claims to have badly damaged a Flotilla leader which was stationary outside Tripoli with light on.

Operation "Supercharge" has commenced, to relieve a further portion of Tobruk garrison by part of 6th Division from Syria. Minelayers and destroyers will take the troops to and from Tobruk during the present dark period, in addition to continuing the supply programme.

An enemy battery which had been shelling Tobruk harbour was bombarded by APHIS on the night 13/14 Sept. and has not since opened fire.

/Egypt.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.9.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Egypt, Syria and Palestine. There were air raids on Port Said and Suez in the early hours of today. No service damage or casualties were caused. Mines are suspected at Suez.

7th C.S. are transporting troops from Syria to Alexandria.

Two Syrian schooners were sunk by air attack on 13/9 whilst on passage from Beirut to Haifa .

Greek Navy. C. in C. Med., reports that for the present the Greek naval personnel are suitable only to man local defence craft and port mine sweepers.

America & West Indies.

U.S.A. Task Groups 2.5 and 2.7 are returning to Bermuda. The Task Force is being reorganised the major part to operate in the North. A/C carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only are expected to operate from Bermuda.

In order to provide more effective A/S protection to shipping near Cape Farewell the U.S. hope to operate 4 to 6 patrol planes from South Greenland during periods when ice and weather conditions permit. The planes will probably operate from the army aerodrome site at Narsarsanak where some facilities exist.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy S.C.44. LEVIS, corvette escorting S.C.44 was torpedoed at 0410Z today in 60° 7' N., 38° 37' W., and sank later. This leaves only one destroyer and 3 corvettes as escort for the convoy, and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has been asked whether there are any American units in the neighbourhood who could assist to escort the convoy.

An aircraft on A/S patrol claims a hit on a U-boat west of the Bay of Biscay. Another A/C on A/S patrol claims two near misses on a S/M north of Rockall.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

## HOME COMMANDS

### Policy

Depot Ship for Atlantic Convoy Escorts.

Your 1950Z/17 para 3. An R.N. Depot ship will continue to be available in Iceland.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1833A/19 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

### U.S.A. Co-operation

U.S. Task Forces.

"Cinclant's" 1904/17 to "Comtask" Forces one.
(Spenavo, 0425/19 to Admty.)
Note. For translation of this signal see Admty. 1115A/20.

### Movements

WINDSOR
VIVACIOUS

-Orders for escorting EREBUS. (C. in C. Nore, 1030A/19 to WINDSOR)

LADY MADELEINE
AYRSHIRE

On reaching 060° 00' N. 008° 32' W. steer to pass through 058° 30' N., 008° 00' W. thence 000° Butt of Lewis four miles.
(C. in C. W.A. 1721A/19)

INDOMITABLE

Due to sail from Liverpool on 1/10 for sea trials in the Clyde area.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to take the ship under his orders and to make the necessary arrangements during the period of the trials.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1903A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

LONDON
Q.P. one

A.M. 1342/9 and 1917/9 and C.in C. H.F. 1155/12 and 1435/15. Mission will arrive Thurso 0850/22
2. Request you will arrange transport to Scapa and sail LONDON as convenient after embarkation of mission.
3. Request you will also inform Admiral Miles:-
(a) In accordance with relevant headings of para 2. of A.M. 1859/30 August, quoting that signal in order that Admiral Miles may make arrangements laid down in para 3.
(b) Intentions for sailing Q.P. one and LONDON movements after arrival at Archangel.
4. Admiral Miles has requested that signals concerning movements of Q.P. one may be repeated to ELECTRA.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2220A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

/British....

MOST SECRET

19.9.1941.
Friday

War Diary

## HOME COMMANDS

### Movements

LONDON-Contd.

British and American delegates to Moscow expect to arrive Archangel in LONDON 27/9.
2. C. in C. H.F. has been requested to signal to you his intentions concerning movements of LONDON and sailing of Q.P. one.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2239A/19 to Ad, Miles.)

### Operations

Investigation of merchant ships (see 18/9)

If nothing has been sighted return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1002A/19 to MATABELE A.C.O.S., PUNJABI)

M.T.B. and M.G.B. Operation.

M.T.B's 38, 219 and 220 supported by M.G.B's 8 and 10 were despatched at 2030/18 to intercept several vessels of unknown size plotted leaving Boulogne. M.G.B's made contact at midnight when opposite Dieppe sighting and having a brief engagement on opposite course with several small vessels and escorts afterwards losing touch. Visibility was poor being as low as one cable at times and M.T.B's did not make contact.
M.T.B. 38 developed engine trouble but all craft returned to base by 0800. M.G.B. 8. received slight damage from gun fire. No casualties.
(V.A. Dover, 1035A/19.)

Patrols

Patrol tonight. Three M.G.B's patrol ten miles 130° from 61 D. buoy. Two M.G.B's patrol ten miles 310° from South Leman. One M.G.B. operation Q.E. with patrol F.Y. (C. in C. Nore, 1233A/19, 2127A/19)

ARGUS

My 1847/15.
1. ARGUS is to embark 14 operational Albacores of 828 Squadron by lighter from Abbotsinch starting loading 26/9.
4. ARGUS is to embark seven Mark XIII torpedoes.
(D.N.A.D. 1402A/19)

SAFFRON

Signification (Ship who is allocated R/T call sign SAFFRON is to take independent action to intercept enemy in message T.O.O. )
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2037A/19) See Summaries Folder.

MOST SECRET

19.9.1941.
Friday

War Diary

## HOME COMMANDS

### British Air Operations

**Patrols and P.R.U's.**

Patrol "Cast" in operation until 1700.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0908/19)
P.R.U. of Coast from Stavanger to Bergen and another from Stavanger to Oslo, including Horten Fjord now flying. Patrol "Hornli" takes off 1115.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1048/19)

**Bomber Command Operations.**

Day 18/9. 11 Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked the Grand Quevilly Power Station at Rouen. Bursts were seen on and near the target.
A further 6 Blenheims, accompanied by long range fighter escort were detailed to attack shipping expected off the Dutch coast.
Two M/V's of about 1,200 tons were observed two miles off Ijmuiden, and 3 of the Blenheims attacked one of these.
The first A/C scored direct hits and the ship is claimed as a total loss.
The second section attacked the other M/V and the first A/C saw one bomb hit the deck and then bounce off, whilst another bomb undershot by 10 yards.
Three further Blenheims attacked a tanker of about 5,000 tons escorted by 9 Flak ships, 11 miles North of Blenkenberghe. 4 hits were scored and this tanker is claimed as a total loss.
Night 18/19 Sept. Le Havre Docks. Owing to unfavourable weather operations were all cancelled except for a small force of 10 A/C's which attacked Docks at Le Havre.
(H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1435/19)

**Mosquito aircraft.**

May be seen flying. Description.
(Air Min. 1615/19)

**Beaufighter Aircraft**

With twin rudders may be seen flying. Description. (Air Min. 1655/19)

MOST SECRET

19.9.1941.
Friday

War Diary

## HOME COMMANDS

### Enemy Air Operations

Convoy E.C. 75 PRESTATYN ROSE damaged.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Usage" in 52° 55' N., 1° 39' E. (WINCHESTER 1311/19)
PRESTATYN ROSE in ballast direct hit U.X.B's through deck and No. 2 double bottom also near misses. Not necessary to beach.
Tug KENIA with assistance of A/S Trawler GREENFLY brought ship into harbour anchorage with great skill. We have taken over operations pumping out forward ballast while ship steam lasts and divers will make survey in morning with view to patching and pumping out.
(Salvage Officer, Harwich 1930/19, F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1741A/19)

Faeroes

2 enemy aircraft reconnoitring Faeroes at 1030 today. 1 bomb dropped in Skaale Fiord No damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1330A/19)

Convoy F.S. 98.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Merit" whose position is 53° 46' N., 0° 35' E.
(VALOROUS 1937/19)
Enemy still dropping bombs.
(VALOROUS 1956/19)
VALOROUS 1937/19. Coastguard Donna Nook reported aircraft crashed into sea at 1950/19 before air sea rescue boat could reach position Coastguard Donna Nook reported 4 German airmen landed and taken prisoner.
(F.O. Humber, 2140A/19)

### Mining

Thames Estuary BRADGLEN GLENALVA Mined

Mines detonated. Details. (HOLDERNESS 0830A/19 Capt. M/S Sheerness 1832/19, 1834/19, 1836/19.)
SS BRADGLEN mined and sunk in position 230° 2 miles B.3. buoy. Have 26 survivors and one body on board, 2 badly injured remainder unwounded. 22 survivors in M.L. 1020 E.T.A. 1230.
(VIVIAN 1158/19)
Lee fishing boat GLENALVA L.O. 15 mined and sunk off Jenkins Buoy 0946A/19. 2 hands aboard both missing.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1316A/19)

/During the.....

## HOME COMMANDS

### Mining-Contd.

**Thames Estuary -Contd.**

During the night of 18/19 September there was no enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary. About 15 mines detonated during the night and early morning. 8 in Barrow Deep, 5 in Tongue area and 2 in Edinburgh Area, one mine near Shingles Patch appears to have detonated spontaneously at 2115 without any sweepers near it and without countermining effect from another explosion. All other explosions can be traced to sweepers or else to another explosion immediately preceding them- often, however at a great distance. This apparent countermining effect was most noticeable. Positions of mines compared roughly to positions of reported air activity on the night of 12/13 September in Edinburgh Channels and on the 13/14 September in South Barrow and Oaze area.
(S.O.T. L.D.F. Sheerness, 1650/19)
SS BRADGLEN was mined and sunk today in position 286° 4.75 miles from Girdler Beacon.
(C. in C. Nore, 1659A/19, Capt. M/S Sheerness 1758/19) C.A.F.O. 1968/40.
(1) 1039/19
(2) BRADGLEN
(4) 230° 2 miles off B. 3 Buoy
(5) 226° 6 knots
(6) 280 feet from stem inclining starboard side
(7) Ordinary mine explosion
(Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1756/19)

**Falmouth**

0715/18/9/41 M.M.S. 24 and INVERCOULD detonated red magnetic mine 1 second after commencement of pulse in 50° 5' 20" N., 5° 0' 30" W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1000/19)

**S.N. 23 C.**

Intend laying deep minefield S.N. 23 C with WELSHMAN unescorted sailing p.m./21 and laying a.m./22 from 058° 40' 48" N., 007° 00' W. to 058° 37' 24" N., 007° 06' W.
(R.A. (M) 1003/19)

**Dover Area**

Sweeping carried out to 0800/19. By LL trawlers in Q.Z.S. 269 and 190 between Dover and Dumpton. Negative results.
By S.A. trawlers Q.Z.S. 191 and in Q.Z.S. 269 and 190. One acoustic mine detonated at 0700/19 in 51° 09' 28" N., 1° 26' 08" E.
(V.A. Dover, 1208A/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

## HOME COMMANDS

### Mining-Contd.

N.L. 15.

Intend to carry out tonight 19/9 operation N.L. 15 from 50° 59' 30" N., 01° 47' 00" E. if conditions permit. Alternatively operation will be N.L. 24 from 51° 01' 48" N., 01° 56' 12" E.
(V.A. Dover 1256A/19)

Operation J.T.

(i) Object. To lay mines between 049° 37' N., 000° 01' E. and 049° 33' N., 000° 03' W.
(iv) Execution. MANXMAN is to leave Portsmouth 1900/19 and proceed to carry out the lay ordered. On completion of lay return to Portsmouth by Needles Channel at daylight 20/9.
(v) Re Lights.
(vi) Cancellation MANXMAN has full discretion to cancel operation of jettison mines if circumstances so require.
(vii) Communications.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1417A/19 to MANXMAN)

Milford Haven.

Milford Haven shallow D.G. range closed. Area compromised by enemy action. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1045/19)
Our (?Four) Ground Mines self-detonated each approx. 20 minutes after being laid in following positions during minelaying attack last night. off Great Castle Head and St. Annes Head.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1637A/19, 1857/19)
Port is open subject to local restrictions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1814/19)

### Enemy Intelligence

SEGUNDO ENRIQUE
PRIMER ENRIQUE

Suspected of reporting and other activities for enemy Spanish steam fishing vessels SEGUNDO ENRIQUE 113 tons believed painted white with number 5300 on bows and PRIMER ENRIQUE 101 tons are probably operating off Straits of Gibraltar Canary Islands and southwards.
If sighted they are to be brought in for examination.
(S.O.W.P. 1130A/19 to W.P.)

2 Transports

Observed at Helsingborg two German transports going north at 11 hours. One large cruiser and two armed trawlers going south at 10 hours.
(B.C. Goteborg 1200/19 to Admty.)

EMDEN

EMDEN left Oslo 1210/17 B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1541/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1941.
Friday

## HOME COMMANDS

### Miscellaneous

**Fuel in North Russia**

Your 1103/10. It is considered that 5,000 tons oil fuel and 500 tons coal should always be available in North Russia for H.M. Ships on convoy duties. These stocks to be maintained at Archangel so long as that port is open otherwise at Murmansk. Request you will arrange accordingly.
(4th S.L. 1147A/19 to Ad. Miles.)

**Fog Signal at Inchkeith**

Q.Z.H. Rosyth Area. The fog signal at Inchkeith will be inoperative from 0900/22 for 48 hours.
(Hydrog. 1801A/19 to Q.Z.H. Distribution.)

### Casualties & Defects

**CITY OF WATERFORD**

In 052° 06' N., 021° 36' W. Tug THAMES sank CITY OF WATERFORD in collision. Crew transferred H.M.S. PENSTEMON standing by tug THAMES who hopes to proceed with Convoy in one hours time.
(DEPTFORD 0830A/19)

**SS PONTFIELD Mined 15/9.**

Cancel my 1840A/18/9. Intend sailing SS PONTFIELD in tow of tugs KROOMAN and STALWART at 0500A/20 proceeding via Cockle to No.8. Buoy and thence by swept channels to Humber. Estimated noon position No. 57. C. Buoy. Trawlers STRATHMORE and STRATHGARRY escorts. Estimated S. of A. 6 knots. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1236A/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

**TEDDINGTON (Torpedoed by E-Boat 17/9)**

Prospect of salving TEDDINGTON very poor owing to extensive damage enemy action and fire. We are working cargo from after hold into Coaster BORNRIFF. NESSUS being unable to return owing to damaged stern.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450A/19)
No hope of salving ship.
(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1911A/19)

**TETELA (Torpedoed by E-Boat 17/9.)**

Arrivals SS TETELA in tow of YORKSHIREMAN and IRISHMAN at 1615.
(F.O. Humber 1635A/19.)

MOST SECRET

19.9.1941.
Friday

War Diary

## HOME COMMANDS

### Shipping & Convoys

SOUDAN

Ref. N.C.S.O. Number 1100A/17, E.C. 74, SOUDAN, Govt. stores for Curacao, Panama, Honolulu and Singapore. Should this ship be sailed independently, if so route? Due to sail 0300A/21.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0950A/19 to Admty.

Call Signs

Pass to N.C.S.O's War W/T call signs from S.P. 02182 (2) are to be given to all merchant ships fitted with W/T to whom British Signal letters have been allocated except those of Dutch nationality.
2. Dutch merchant vessels fitted with W/T are to be given War W/T call signs from S.P. 02437 using their Dutch Signal letters for this purpose.
3. Particulars of recognition procedure should, however, only be communicated to Masters of ocean-going merchant ships of over 500 tons fitted with W/T, who either wear the red ensign or are of Dutch nationality.
3. N.C.S.I. 371 will be amended accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1103A/19 to A.I.G. 19, 26, A.C.I.C.)

C.T. 3.
CATHAY
AGAMEMNON
W.S. 12.

Convoy C.T. 3. composed of HIGHLAND PRINCESS carrying R.A.F. and military personnel will leave Liverpool for Halifax (date)
2. She will be accompanied by CATHAY and AGAMEMNON who will proceed to Halifax to disembark personnel prior to refitting in U.S.A.
3. Ships will leave U.K. in company with W.S. 12 and will break off as ordered and proceed to Halifax.
4. Through escort will be provided by ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY.
5. CATHAY and AGAMEMNON will sail from Clyde.
6. G. in C. W.A. is requested to (a) arrange for destroyers to complete with fuel at Londonderry and (b) sail ships as requisite.
7. C.O.A.C. is requested to arrange for local escort on arrival.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1151A/19)

S.D. 12.

Your 1748A/18 and 1326A/17 from Admty. E.T.D. S.D. 12, 22/9. Speed of LOCH NAGAR 12 knots. Must proceed direct (? route to) Faeroes owing to small water supply for personnel. LOCH NAGAR required to proceed to Akureyri from Faeroes.
(A.C.I.C., 1240/19 to A.C.O.S.)

/H.X. 150.....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS

### Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 150 Changes of Route.

Following has been broadcasted. (Begins) To all stragglers from "Port Alma" convoy. Cancel route ordered and proceed direct to new position P which bears 320° 120 miles from LUPIN. Thence steer 90° (Ends.) Until now, whenever a convoy route has had to be changed Admty. has issued through the G.B.M.S. broadcast system a new route for possible stragglers. Request your concurrence to continue this practice. The new route will be repeated to you. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1821A/19, to Opnav.)

O.G. 74.

O.G. 74 not met. Have investigated all positions. My P. C and S. at 2300/19 049° 34' N 021° 26' W. 188° 6. Endurance 8 days at 10 knots in moderate weather conditions. Request instructions. ? Weather report.
(COWSLIP, 2231A/19 to ? C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

Western Patrol, fuelling base.

As Bermuda is considerably nearer present patrol areas and the route there is safer from U-boat attacks, suggest (?ships) leaving westerly patrol should fuel and water there instead of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046A/19 to Admty).

SPRINGBANK A/C attack on F/W 18/9.

My A.180, 18/9. Fulmar from F.C.S. SPRINGBANK unsuccessfully attacked W.J. Condor at 1400 position 36.12 N., 08.40 W. All guns except one jammed. Bombs jettisoned. Fulmar landed Gibraltar. (200 Group, 1050/19) W.D. Note, Position differs from that given in F.O.C.N.A., 1822A/18.
My 1822A/18/9 Para (4). All stoppages were caused by separated cases of B. Mk.VI Z 1941 K ammunition. Guns have been examined and found to be correctly breeched up and serviceable. It would appear that failures are due to faulty manufacture. (F.O.C.N.A., 1322A/19 to Admty).

SAN ZAFERINO.

Your 1222/23/8. Have you further instructions regarding SAN ZAFERINO? (V.A.C.N.A., 1235A/19 to Admty).

COREOPSIS, cable operation.

Single enemy aircraft invvicinity of operation C from 1230 to 1330, no attack made. MIRROR is now in territorial waters off Cascaes. Buoys are still in position at place of operation. (COREOPSIS, 1437A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B.

Daily Summary Ops., 202 Sqn. 1 Catalina escort H.G.73. Dawn to dusk. Unsuccessful U-boat attack on surface at 1048 hours, 35.35 N., 11.12 W. Aircraft still airborne. (200 Group, 1730/19).

Western Patrol, MARON.

Lack of movement of enemy shipping from South American ports reduces the likelihood of suitable targets for Western Patrol in areas recently occupied.
2. In view of possibility of GERMANIA's early departure from Teneriffe (S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1635/16) and recant increasing suspicion that Spanish ships are acting as supply ships to the enemy (your 2003/30/8 and C. in C. A.W.I. 0944/23/8) MARON is at your disposal for her next patrol. She should return to U.K. on completion. (D.O.D. (F) 1842A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

WALNEY defect. WALNEY reports cooling (?blower) to main motor of turbo electric drive burnt out and ship can only make 10 knots without over heating. Not possible to repair at Freetown or Bathurst. Intend to sail ship for U.K. with convoy S.L.88 with instructions not to exceed convoy speed unless absolutely necessary.
(C. in C. S.A., 1317N/19 to Admty 1331N/19 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

ALCANTARA. Your 2025N/11. Request you will arrange for ALCANTARA to call at Tristan da Cunha on her way to Simonstown, (D.O.D. (F) 1847A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

STANVAC, suspicious vessel. Panamanian STANVAC, Manila reports on 14/9 1130 a.m. in 004° 21' S., 034° 45' W., was approached and followed by suspicious vessel steaming more than 20 knots. (Description) No officers or crew visible. Possible accommodation for 30 or 40 passengers amidships. Tonnage about 7000 15/9 p.m. identical ship sighted about 5 miles distant, but funnel painted buff end.
(N.C.S.O. Santos, 1945Z/19 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

GAZCON. Following is repetition of my 0601N/18:-
My 2025/7. Governor Nigeria reports that cargo of GAZCON totalling about 5400 tons loaded Madagascar. Starch, coffee all for Marseilles conserves and Meat for Dakar.
(2) Complacent or pro-ally attitude of crew (details) No passengers. But see ALBATROSS's 1201/10. Crew now ashore in Nigeria (3) Governor, Nigeria has asked Secretary of State for Colonies for instructions concerning disposal of vessel and cargo. Ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2021N/19 to Admty).
Following is repetition of my 0605N/18. My 2025N /7 GAZCON sailed from Lobito about 2100 as indicated and apparently steered approximately the course given 315°. Ship was sighted by ALBATROSS and shadowed. ALBATROSS intended to board at daylight when out of sight of land. Ship during night sighted ALBATROSS and steered off towards the N.W. subsequently proceeding north in territorial waters. ALBATROSS had to leave at approx. 0145A/2/9 for fuel. Chief Officer chiefly responsible for original avoiding action. ALBATROSS subsequently intercepted 1930/19/9 as reported ends. (C. in C. S.A., 2111N/19 to Admty).

/OUED.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

OUED GROU. My 2209/18/8. Am informed that Elder Dempster, Freetown, have been directed by Elder Dempster, Liverpool, to employ OUED GROU on run Sherboro, Freetown, Bathurst. Consider for reason given previously that employment of this ship to Bathurst undesirable. Thought French would look out for her and recapture. (C. in C. S.A., 2135N/19 to Admty)

Corvettes, S. America. Two corvettes from Freetown are to be sailed to join R.A.S.A.D. as soon as practicable. It is intended that a Force of this size should be maintained on East Coast of South America so long as a possible threat from submarines exists in that area. (1st S.L., 2219A/19 to C. in C. S.A).

### Mediterranean.

W.S.10 X. Disposal instructions. (D.S.T., 0217A/19 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

LISBOA German. Barcelona arrived 18/9. (Adm. Gibraltar, 0802/19).

COVENTRY. Intend following programme for COVENTRY 3/10 transit canal Northward. 4/10 at Alexandria to embark construction material for new bow. 5th or 6/10 transit canal Southward and Sail for Aden and Bombay to refit. (C. in C. Med., 10430/19 to F.O.15 C.S.)

Benghazi Bardia bombed. Night 17/18. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour bombs bursting on central mole.
Day 18/19. 15 Marylands bombed supply dumps N.W. of Bardia and M.T. vehicles near Mersa.

Suez Canal Raid. Night 18/19. Enemy aircraft attacked Suez Canal zone. No damage or casualties reported from Suez. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1131/19).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Malta Supplies.**

Your Cosup 1228. Impossible at present to decide how and when further convoys can be sent to Malta, and even discussion of this prejudices the secrecy of future Military strategy, whether offensive or defensive, and we ask that it be avoided at all costs. Every effort possible will be made to keep the Fortress supplied, though present policy is that no convoy should be considered for some months. (4th S.L., 1146A/19 to Govr., Malta.)

**Suez Canal Raid.**

Ref. C.A.F.O. 287. 1st Raid (a) Night 18/19, calm clear (b) High level attack by 6 - 8 enemy aircraft on Port Said 0209 - 0412, some flares, no moon (c) H/E, incendiaries, mines. (d) 5 H/E, few incendiaries 1 mine exploded mid-air. Parachute found. (e) No service damage or casualties, slight civilian damage. (f) A/A active. (g) Balloon up. 2nd raid. (a) As above. (b) High level attack by 4 enemy aircraft on Suez 0240 - 0403, no moon. (c) H/E, incendiaries, suspect mine. (d) 4 H/E, few incendiaries, 2 suspect exploding mines on mountain. (e) Service or civilian damage & casualties negative. (f) A/A active. (g) Balloon up. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1305B/19).

**Greek naval personnel.**

I am not very greatly impressed by Greek efficency, though as their destroyers have neither Asdics nor effective A.A. it is difficult to assess whether they would adopt more resolute attitude if their ships were supplied with these weapons. Their submarines have really performed nothing at all since they have worked for us. Greek destroyers if properly fitted are not suitable for Fleet work or convoys likely to have to face really serious attack. Greek Naval personnel is definitely improving largely due to example and energy of Admiral (? Sakellariou) but for the present I think they are suitable to man local defence craft and port minesweepers only. (C. in C. Med. 1421B/19 to Admty:)

**THUNDERBOLT.**

Remain west of 029° until 0500B/20. 7th C.S. and escorting destroyer E.T.A. Alexandria 0515B from Eastward. (Capt. S.1, 1431B/19 to THUNDERBOLT).

**BALCIC.**

My 1714/11 and my 1131/14. BALCIC loading slowly. Will telegraph probable sailing date, but unlikely before 25/9 for Trieste. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1538/19).

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Operation "Propeller".** Arrived EMPIRE GUILLEMOT. (V.A. Malta, 1625B/19 to Admty.) See 0221/20.

**TETRARCH operation.** OTUS is unable to take part in special operation ordered in my operation orders dated 13/9 and you will be required to take her place carrying out her programme in full as laid down in those orders. Leave area S on 21st and proceed through Antikithera Channel to comply. Acknowledge from a position in N.E. corner of area S. (Capt. S.1., 1627B/19 to TETRARCH).
My 1629B/19. On completion of operation or at the latest 0600B /24 proceed through 036° 30' 022° 44' thence east 022° 44' to return to Alexandria on reverse of your outward route as ordered in S.O. 36. OSIRIS routed direct to 034° 43' 022° 57' then to 180° Cape Matapan 8, thence to West of 022° 39' keeping south of 036° 30' until 0600B/24. Your 0035B/19 understood. (Capt. S.1, 1935B/19 to TETRARCH).
My 1935B/19. No S/M is to be attacked when west of 23° 30' unless definitely established as hostile. Report immediately it is safe to do so if you consider operation compromised. Repeat signal to OSIRIS and try to communicate direct with her if circumstances necessitate. If yellow flag not seen on either day and yet (no?) ground for suspicion, endeavour to inform OSIRIS as above as soon as safe to do so. Report time of arrival 36 hours before entering sanctuary and state number embarked. OSIRIS has my 1129B/19. (Capt. S.1, 1957B/19 to TETRARCH).

**A/C attack on enemy convoy.** Night 18/19. 7 Swordfish attacked convoy 2 medium M/Vs, 1 medium tanker, 1 smaller tanker, 5 escorts at 2105 hrs, 35° 17' N. 12° 15' E. course East. 3 torpedoes 1000 lbs bombs dropped, no results observed, except one flash. 1 M/V appeared stopped. Visibility bad, effective smoke screen.

**Liners bombed, Tripoli.** 8 Wellingtons attacked 24,000 ton liner reported Karamanli Mole. First aircraft found no smoke screen, liner moved to new position, smoke screen then covered harbour, visibility bad. Probable hits on liner and hits on other shipping in harbour also on Spanish Mole and Karamanli Mole. Duration of attack 0120 to 0300 hrs. 3 Blenheims attacked 24,000 ton liner and 8000 ton M/V Tripoli Harbour at dawn. 3 hits on liner and 2 on M/V, subsequent results unobserved owing to half light. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/19).

/Force.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

Force H, intelligence. To ensure S.O. Force H receiving all information which may affect him and to fulfil para 5 of Admty. 1521A/12, most satisfactory arrangement would be for him to see Malta Combined Intelligence Report issued daily with priority immediate by H.Q. R.A.F. Understood this report is now passed to you. As S.O. Force H does not hold X Cypher he cannot be included in address. Suggest you should assume responsibility for passing this signal to S.O. Force H when in harbour and recyphering and passing relevent part of message to S.O. Force H when at sea. (V.A. Malta, 1643B/19 to F.O.C.N.A.) Concur (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/21).

CANADA. COLOMBIE. Vichy Hospital Ship CANADA and Troop Ship COLOMBIE proceeding from 041° 35' 010° 00' at 1500B/18 and 19th respectively and passes Messina 1200B/20 and 21st. These ships if encountered are not to be molested. (Capt. S.10, 1703B/19 to UTMOST).

French Tankers. Your 1131B/17 (N.T. in W.R.) Two French Tankers entered Dardanelles today. Name of one VENDEMIAIRE. (Istanbul, 1749C/19 to S.O.I. Med.)

U/B. Morning 19th position 032° 07' 020° 04' arrived one U-boat. (Capt. S.1., 1757B/19 to THRASHER).

Situation report No. 151. Western Desert. Operation "Supercharge" has commenced to relieve a further portion of Tobruk garrison by part of 6th Div. from Syria. 7th C.S. are transporting troops Syria to Alexandria. Minelayers and Destroyers will take troops to and from Tobruk during present dark period in addition continuing supply programme.
Enemy Battery which has been shelling Tobruk Harbour was bombarded by APHIS night 13/14 and has not since opened fire.
2. Eastern Mediterranean Shipping Routes. A/S Sweep by destroyers and light craft continues but no further report of U-boats. 2 Syria Schooners sunk by bombs 13/9 while on passage Beirut to Haifa.
3. Red Sea. 15 C.S. A.A. Cruisers and sloops operating in Red Sea. No more enemy air activity reported.

/4.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 151. -Contd.

4. Submarines. 10th S.F. intercepted Troop convoy off Khoms on 18/9 and has apparently obtained hit. Dutch O.24 sank 6000 ton laden ships on 9/9 in 042° 48' N. 009° 58' E. and 1200-ton Schooner by gunfire on 6/9, in 043° 35' N. 009° 21' E.
5. Aircraft. Oil tanker reported on fire between Benghazi and Appolonia after raid night 15/16. 826 Squadron continue good work against enemy forward aerodromes in Western Desert. (C. in C. Med., 2003B/19).

UPHOLDER etc.

All S/Ms should arrive about 0629/20. (UPHOLDER, 2014B/19 to V.A.M.)

UTMOST, enemy liner.

Patrol in 038° 10' N. 011° 46' E. One liner escorted by one cruiser and 2 destroyers expected 1000B/20, course 038°, speed 22 knots. Leave position in execution of previous orders at 1800B/20. Primary object liner. (Capt. S.10, 2052B/19 to UTMOST).

### East Indies.

TAI KOO (sunk 17/9).

S.N.O. Red Sea Force 2315/15. Tug TAI KOO has been lost in Red Sea with heavy casualties. Probable cause was mine. Request Admiralty will say when news may be released to those concerned. (C. in C. E.I., 0736Z/19 to Cdre, Hong Kong etc.)

### China.

Japanese Ships.

Your 1158/17 VENICE MARU, TERUKAWA MARU. Only news of N.Y.K. ships is of those on South American Coast. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0533Z/19 to S.O.I. Jamaica)

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China-Contd.

U.S. Asiatic Fleet. Personal C.N.S. Admiral Hart informs me he has received following instructions from Navy Dept. "Pending further instructions you will be guided by following. U.S. Naval Forces will operate under strategic direction of C. in C. Asiatic Fleet and in general they will not be sent outside Far East area. The co-ordination of their Force will be arranged by method of mutual co-operation". This change in regard to strategic direction was not indicated in C. O.S. telegram Far East 31, and I trust every effort will be made to obtain a revision as new arrangements will considerably reduce effectiveness of combined force in Far East area. I have not informed Australia, New Zealand, or N.E.I. of this development. (C. in C. China, 0755Z/19 to Admty.)

### America and West Indies.

STRATHEDEN. Sailed U.K. 16/9 with 1484 Personnel for Halifax and 1770 for Middle East. STRATHEDEN should bunker at Halifax only sufficiently to reach Trinidad where she will bunker to capacity. (D.S.T. 0218A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CALIFORNIA. My 1702R/15. Refitting yard of CALIFORNIA altered to Navy Yard Brooklyn. Request ship may arrive Ambrose L/V and meet Pilot at 2100Z/22. (B.A.R.M. 1114R/19 to R.A.3) Cancelled, see 1056R/20.

S/M for A/S Training. Your 1206R/17. It is intended that one ex-American S/M should be based at St. John's N.F. for A/S training. Spare gear for one S/M only should therefore be brought back to U.K. in FORTH. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1203A/19 to B.A.R.M.)

/RESOLUTION.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.-Contd.

RESOLUTION. Intend to sail RESOLUTION for U.K. on completion of working up 27/9. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1242Q/19 to Admty.)

PHOEBE. Your 1313A/17. PHOEBE can be accepted at U.S. Navy Yard Brooklyn, Job No. 221. Request approx. date of arrival be given as soon as practicable. (B.A.R.M., 1442R/19 to Admty.)

MARET. Estonian ship MARET at St. Thomas requisitioned by U.S. Authorities. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1508R/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

A/S protection C. Farewell. Following from Opnav. to C. in C. Lant., for action. In order to provide more effective A/S protection to shipping in vicinity of Cape Farewell, desired if practicable to operate four to six patrol planes from South Greenland during periods when ice and weather conditions permit. Following facilities are available at Army airdrome site Narsarssuak. (list). Information on ice conditions of Narsarrsuak has been requested from Army and this will be furnished when received. (Spenavo, 1550/19 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE. Bermuda departures. DIOMEDE in accordance with my 1552Q/17. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1733Q/19).

A.M.C.'s N.A.E.F. Your 1248Z/6. Am not clear what the duties assigned to A.M.C's remaining with the N.A.E.F. will be. Is it desired that they should continue to escort S.C. convoys to Western R/V? Some are usefully employed transporting personnel stores and fresh water to Bermuda, there carrying out practices, but others are not at present employed. Meantime quantities of naval victualling and canteen stores etc. are accumulating for transport to Iceland and a large amount of timber and constructional material urgently required is expected to be available for shipment in about a week. Request also instructions whether provision of increased accommodation vide A.M. 2146B/21/5 should be proceeded with. (R.A.5. 1759P/19 to Admty.)

/Newfoundland.....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies-Contd.

**Newfoundland Escort Groups.**

A.M. 1638A/12. Grateful for very early indication of policy regarding size of each escort group of Newfoundland Escort Groups.
2. My 0131Z/13. Propose Escort of S.C. 46 consists of OTTAWA, BROADWAY, BURWELL, POLYANTHUS, COBALT, BUCTOUCHE, GALT.
3. On assumption Newfoundland Escort Force ships now in Iceland including R.N., (except those detailed for H.X. 150), return to St. John's N.F. with as little delay as possible, it is anticipated reorganization of N.F.E.F. into 6 groups of about 7 ships each can be made. Early return of N.F. E.F. Escort of H.X. 150 would greatly assist. (C.C.N.F. 1819Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

**Task Group 3.**

MILWAUKEE and WARRINGTON are due Recife 20/9 from direction of Cape Verde Islands.
2. OMAHA and SOMERS have left St. Thomas (Virgin Islands) for Recife where they are due 23/9.
3. MEMPHIS and DAVIS will remain at St. Thomas (Virgin Islands) until 20/9. (D.O.D.(F) 1902A/19 to C. in C. A.W.I., etc.)

**CANDYTUFT.**

C.C.N.F's 20452/18. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to make necessary arrangements for temporary repairs of CANDYTUFT and towage to port selected.
2. C.O.A.C. is requested to report the anticipated date of completion of temporary repairs.
3. Decision as to whether CANDYTUFT shall replace DIANTHUS refitting at Charleston will be given on receipt of your reply.
(D.O.D. (H) 1917A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C)

**Task Groups.**

Cancel my 2245/16 and 0330/16. Ref. Opnav 0422/19 (0425/19 intended) addressed for information to Spenavo and Alusna Ottawa. (Opnav 1920Z/19 to Admty.)
Task Force 3, Cruising Plan. Group 3.5, MILWAUKEE, WARRINGTON, leave Recife 21/9 for Trinidad, arrive 27/9. Group 3.6, OMAHA, SOMERS leave Recife 24/9 for a point 15°N26° W. to arrive 29/9. Group 3.7, MEMPHIS, DAVIS, leave St. Thomas 20/9 to arrive Recife 1/10. Group 3.8, CINCINNATI, JOUETT, leave San Juan 28/9 to arrive Recife 9/10. (Opnav 2054/19 to Admty.)

/Following....

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

Task Groups -Contd.

Following information from local U.S. authorities. Task groups 2.5 and 2.7 returning to Bermuda now. Task force is being reorganised, major part to operate in the North. A/C carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only expected to operate from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/19 to Admty.)
My 1920/19. WASP and two destroyers directed proceed Bermuda to Iceland. When off Cape Race HAMMAN and GRAYSON will relieve GWIN and MEREDITH who then proceed Argentia. YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROWAN 30° 40', Long. 59° 10' at 1014/19 directed proceed immediately best speed to Argentia. SAVANNAH MONSSEN when available about 22/9 proceed Argentia. (Opnav, 2330/19 to Admty.)

Georgetown, Exam. Service.

Your 1334A/9. In view of urgent need for efficient examination service Georgetown, British Guiana, early purchase of a suitable examination vessel essential. In anticipation of approval I have approved purchase of minesweeper HELENE. Request covering approval. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2136Q/19 to Admty.)

### Australia.

Minesweepers.

Your 0709Z/17. Intend to sail Australian minesweepers for Singapore as follows: from Darwin, BENDIGO now. From Sydney, MARYBOROUGH early October, BALLARAT November. Completion dates of next Admiralty vessels are WOLLONGONG and TOOWOOMBA in October, WHYALLA and ASALGOORLIE in December. Ships should be ready to sail about one month after completion. (A.C.N.B., 0709Z/19 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

LEVIS
S.C.44.

LEVIS torpedoed at 0410Z/19 in 060° 07' N. 038° 37' W. Not sinking. MAYFLOWER standing by to take in tow to Iceland. Request tug may be sent. (CHESTERFIELD, 0739/19 to Admty. etc.)
1600Z Position. 060° 21' N. 037° 49' W. MAYFLOWER towing LEVIS stern first, course 060°, speed 4 knots, LEVIS sustained heavy damage forward, many killed and injured, survivors about 42 on board AGASSIZ and MAYFLOWER. Have placed doctor on board MAYFLOWER. Weather report. My 0739Z/19, add to addressees N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O.C. N.A. (CHESTERFIELD 1605Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

3 ships.

S.C. 44 being attacked in 61° 36' N. 35° ?07' W. 3 ships torpedoed. (CHESTERFIELD, 2350Z/19 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

S.C.42
(attacked
11/9 etc.).

WASTWATER, RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER, SEALYHAM, returned from search for ship torpedoed in S.C. 42. Nothing found. Presume RESTIVE, CAROLINE MOLLER should be sailed first opportunity to Campbeltown. (A.C.I.C. 1132/19 to Admty. etc.)

### Submarines Reported.

2128Z/17.

Your 1056N/18. U/B probably southbound. (D.D.I.C. 0142A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

1045 G.M.T.

Bearings of Italian U/boat 33G at 1045/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1220A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1305.

Am over enemy submarine in 47.12 N., 7.04 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 090° speed 7 knots. (A/C using call sign BZ91 1305/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)

1127 G.M.T.

By D/F at 1127/19 G.M.T. a U-boat in approx. 52° 30' N. 17° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1320A/19 to SAMPHIRE, CONVOLVULUS).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1516A/19).

/1848Z.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1848Z. Probable that Convoys S.C.44 or O.N. 16 were sighted by U-boat at 1848Z/19. (D.D.I.C. 2131A/19 to CHESTERFIELD, Escorts of O.N. 16, AGASSIZ, MAYFLOWER etc.).

1930Z. Bearings of Italian U/Boat 13 U at 1930Z/19 indicate that FURIOUS or Convoy H.G. 73 has been sighted. (D.D.I.C. 2141A/19 to FURIOUS, FOWEY, F.O.C.N.A.)

1917. Sighting report from Italian U/B at 1917/19 may refer to H.G. 73. (F.O.C.N.A. 2204A/19 to H.G. 73 Escorts.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Have attacked enemy Submarine with depth charges ? Position 65. 52 N., 12.54 W. (A/C call sign MPZG 1640/19 to 15 Group).

By A/C. Catalina of 202 Sqdn. attacked U/B (unsuccessful) at 1048, 55.55 N., 11.12 W. (200 Group, 1730/19) See North Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### U.S.A. Dispositions.

U.S.A. naval surface and air forces have been assigned the following duties:-
Iceland, Watch on Denmark Strait and its northernly approaches.
Argentia. Ready to cover the line Newfoundland - Azores and northward thereof.
Bermuda. Ready to proceed northeastward.
All groups are ready to coordinate their movements with each other and with British heavy units.

### Home Commands.

**Labour Troubles.**

F.O.I.C. London reports that labour troubles which C. in C. Nore states do not reflect credit on the labour concerned, are hindering refits and repairs of destroyers at Harland and Wolff.

**S/Ms in Far North.**

F.O.S. considers that we should maintain two British submarines at Polyarnoe throughout the winter. The Russians intend to continue S/M operations in this area. He strongly urges that our surface forces should carry out vigorous attacks on enemy A/S vessels in northern waters as the nights lengthen. (Adty. concurred generally, see 22/9).

**E-boat attack on F.N.21.**

E-boats, probably 6 in number attacked with torpedoes Convoy F.N.21 near 57A Buoy between 2310 and 2330 today. The destroyers drove off the E-boats, one of which was probably damaged. Our ships suffered no damage or casualties.

**MARCONI sunk.**

M/S Trawler MARCONI was sunk today in 51° 54.6' N. 1° 30.8' E. in collision with M/S Trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD. The latter was apparently little damaged.

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SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

53 aircraft attacked Stettin last night, and report that bursts were observed "within a mile or so" of the aiming point.

24 Blenheims with fighter escort set out to attack shipping off the Dutch coast today. Two convoys were attacked; a 5,000 ton merchant ship was set fiercely on fire, hits were made on a 2,000 - 3,000 ton tanker and it is believed that 4 other merchant ships were set on fire. An 800 ton flak ship was hit.

6 Blenheims with fighter escort today attacked the shipyard at Grand Queville near Rouen.

2 Blenheims bombed the fish oil factory at Floro, north of Bergen.

6 Aircraft with fighter escort attacked the docks at Cherbourg.

One Fortress attacked Emden.

Enemy Air Operations.

Rattray Head Lighthouse was attacked this morning. The light was damaged and is out of action.

Convoy F.S. 99 was bombed at 2018A today in 53° 26' N?

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Several more acoustic mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary today.

S.R. Steamer PORTSDOWN (I.of W. ferry) was sunk at about 0415 today by explosion in Swashway Channel.

Further mines were detonated in the Milford Haven area today, and another mine was detonated in the Portsmouth area. A German mine, apparently very new and moored was sunk in 60° 4' 30" N., 1° 27' W. today.

North Atlantic.

S/M attack at Gibraltar. About 0800 today explosions apparently the result of submarine attacks synchronised with attacks by one or two man submarines, occurred in DENBYDALE, DURHAM and FIONA SHELL anchored in Gibraltar Bay. FIONA SHELL sank and DURHAM was beached.

South Atlantic.

EAGLE. A fire occurred on board the EAGLE today. Several aircraft were damaged beyond repair by ship's facilities, and only 4 remain completely serviceable.

Mediterranean.

4 Blenheims on a shipping sweep today claim to have sunk a 3000 ton heavily laden merchant ship northbound off Kerkenah. This may have been French S.S.MONSELET, reported by Vichy French news agency bombed and sunk today in Gulf of Gabes.

Libya and Western Desert. 7 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night.

MOST SECRET.

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## SITUATION REPORT.

### U-Boat Campaign.

**Attack on S.C.44. 4 ships torpedoed.**

Convoy S.C.44 was attacked last night by a concentration of U-boats in approx. 61° 36' N. 35° 7' W. Tanker T.J. WILLIAMS, S.S. EMPIRE BURTON, PINK STAR (Panamanian flag, owned by U.S. Govt) and Norwegian Tanker BARBRO were torpedoed. The second and third of these ships were sunk, and the fourth probably sunk.

U.S. Destroyer division 62 sailed at 0900 today to protect the convoy.

**Attack on O.G.74.**

Convoy O.G.74 was attacked at 2225A today in approx. 48° 10' N. 22° 20' W. BALTALLINN and EMPIRE MOAT were torpedoed.

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**British S/M's at Polyarno.**

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1817C/16. In my opinion it is clear from second sentence of para. C that we should maintain two British S/M's at Polyarno through the winter, withdrawing them to U.K. if Polyarno falls into enemy hands. Observations and proposals.
(F.O.S. 1211A/20.) See Lion Copy.

**TEWARA for Freetown.**

My 1933A/26 August. (D.O.D. F. 1440A/20) Add M/S Trawler TEWARA. (D.M.S. 1526A/20.)

**Clyde tugs.**

Your 1606/17. (See Mining.)
The loss of these Tugs can only be made good from new construction which should complete end of November. In order to alleviate the position meanwhile following action is being taken.
(Admty., 2117A/20 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

### U.S. Co-operation.

**Task Forces.**

1. Following is C. in C. Lant's instruction 1904 of 19/9 to "Comtask" Forces 1, 2, 4 and 15, and to Force 9 for information. Begins:-
2. Special situation requires following dispositions which make at once. "Comtask" 1 is to concentrate and maintain in Iceland bases 2 Battleships 3 - 8" Cruisers, and 1 Destroyer Squadron. Concentrate and maintain at Argentia four Battleships, 1 - 8" Cruiser and 1 Destroyer Division.
3. "Comtask" 2 is to make available:-
(a) For Iceland Group - 1 Carrier.
(b) For Argentia Group - 2 Cruisers and 1 Destroyer Division and 1 Carrier.
Hold remaining ships in readiness at Bermuda under training.
4. "Comtask" 4 is to increase planes in Iceland by one Patrol Division (three planes)
5. These dispositions are expected to hold until mid-October. All Task Force 1 ships, detached with Task Force 15, are available for assignment by "Comtask" 1.
6. Task Force 15 when unloaded will be escorted as then directed. Ends.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1115A/20, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A. & W.I., C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, R.A.3., A.C.I.C.)
(D.O.D. H., 1459A/20.)

/Opnav.....

## HOME COMMANDS.

### U.S. Co-operation.

Task Forces. Contd.

Opnav Washington reports:-
WASP and 2 Destroyers directed proceed Bermuda to Iceland (C). When off Cape Race, HAMMAN and GRAYSON will relieve GWIN and MEREDITH who then proceed Argentia. YORKTOWN, BROOKLYN, ROWAN 30° 40' N. 59° 10' W. at 1014/19, directed proceed immediately best speed to Argentia. SAVANNAH and MONSSEN when available about 22/9 proceed Argentia 2330/19. Ends.
(D.O.D.(H) 1154A/20 and 2231A/20 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. A.W.I.)

Task Groups. Allocation of Areas.

A.M. 1115A/20. Opnav reports groups mentioned, assisted by available patrol planes, assigned following tasks.
2. Iceland observe Denmark Strait and Northernly approaches thereto.
3. Argentia ready cover line Newfoundland - Azores and Northward thereof.
4. Bermuda ready proceed North-eastward.
5. All groups ready co-ordinate movements with each other and British heavy units.
(D.O.D. H., 1458A/20.)

Signalling arrangements.

Admiralty 563A/18 September. Delete para. 4 A and substitute following.
(D.S.D. 1752A/20.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

Beacons.

It is important that ships operating off North Russian coast should be able to apply direct for shore lights and beacons at reasonably short notice in case of emergency.
(2) Can reliable arrangements be made for this through Murmansk or through other local authorities and thus save the time required to pass through Admiralty to you.
(3) Request also information maximum draught and length which can proceed up Dvina river.
(C. in C. H.F., 1225A/20 to Ad. Miles.)

### Movements.

SEAWOLF.

Intend to sail SEAWOLF at 1630/22 (route) to patrol in Bay of Biscay as ordered by F.O. Subs.
(Capt. S.5., 1101A/20.)

/LONDON.....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements.- Contd.

LONDON. Delegates to Russian Conference.

No information concerning my 2239A/19 should be communicated to any Russian authorities pending further instructions.
(V.C.N.S., 1237A/20 to Admiral Miles.)

THORN.

(1) Intend to sail THORN escorted by WHITEBEAR at 0900A/22 for 290° Bishop Rock 5 miles E.T.A. 2200A/23.
(2) Thence THORN diving by day to 046° N. 009° W. thence on the surface at C.O's discretion to 043° N. 010°40'W E.T.A in last position 1700A/26 thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(5) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation as follows.
(7) Description of THORN.
(Capt. S.3, 1433A/20.)

### Operations.

Operation "Pilgrim".

Following troopships are allocated to operation "Pilgrim" until further notice.
BATORY, ETTRICK, ORBITA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, and BERGENSFORD.
2. A further troopship will be nominated as soon as possible.
3. They will be at the disposal of C.O. QUEBEC II who will employ them for training etc. as desired. From time to time they may be employed for short trooping voyages such as in D.S. Convoys.
(D. of S.T. 0556A/20 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland.)

SEALION.

My 1022A/17. Movement now believed completed. Patrol Biscay North Zone East of 06° 30' W. and leave Zone for Portsmouth after dark 22/9 as ordered by S.5.
(F.O.S., 1238A/20, 1534A/20 to SEALION.)

NORTHERN SPRAY.

Leave ships off Reykjanes and rejoin MALCOLM.
(A.C.I.C., 1704/20 to NORTHERN SPRAY.)

S.E.E.C.C.D.

Proceed to vicinity of Leman Bank to intercept E-Boats.
(C. in C. Nore, 2333A/20 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Operations.

**Flares.** Arrangements to illuminate E-boats if attack occurs tonight.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1212/20.)

**S.I. filters.** It is understood at least 50 per cent of Coastal Command aircraft operating in Western Approaches are still not fitted with S.I filters and are therefore incapable of receiving R/T whilst A.S.V. is working. In view of the vital importance of immediate R/T communication between escorts and aircraft in emergencies, and the long delay already experienced in obtaining S.I. filters, it is requested that Air Ministry may be asked to give utmost priority to ensure the very early provision of this equipment.
(C. in C. W.A., 1220A/20 to Admty.)

**Patrols.** "Hornli" in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/20.)

**P.R.U.** P.R.U. of Stavanger Bergen Haugesund and another of Oslo Horten and Kristiansand in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1410/20.)

**Shipping R/C Patrol.** One Sunderland, filled to 2000 galls. and armed with 2 x 250 lbs. D/C's and 2 x 250 lbs. G.P. bombs, is to carry out a shipping R/C on 21/9, through following positions.
2. A/C is to be airborne at 0500.
3. Detailed report is required on all shipping sighted.
4. Suitable shipping targets within free bombing area may be attacked, and any S/M's sighted are (subject to existing S.B.R. areas) to be attacked and reported.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1530/20.)

**Stettin bombed.** During day 19/9 there were no operations owing to weather. On Night 19/20 fifty A/C bombed the Main Railway Station and industrial quarter of Stettin.
(H.Q.B.C., 1600/20.)

/ M/S.....

MOST SECRET

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations - Contd.

A/S protection off Cape Farewell.

"Cinclant" has been instructed to provide if practicable for more effective A/S protection for shipping in the vicinity Cape Farewell. This it is intended will be effected by the operation of four or six planes from South Greenland during the periods when Ice and weather conditions permit.
2. These aircraft would operate from Narsarssuak Army Aerodrome, position 60° N. 45° 30' W., where limited facilities are available.
(D.O.D. H. 1853A/20.)

A/C for ARGUS.

My 1402/19. Only 12 Albacore and air crews of 828 Squadron are to be embarked in ARGUS. Two operational Swordfish of 818 Squadron with air crews are to be lent to ARGUS for the round trip to embark by air as arranged between ARGUS and N.A.S. Macrihanish.
(D.N.A.D. 1951A/20.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Rattray Head Lighthouse.

Rattray Head Lighthouse was bombed and machine-gunned at 1135/20 light damaged and out of action so far as known at present fog signals undamaged no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1150/20, 1630/20, Northern Lighthouse Board, Edinburgh 1324/20.)

Convoy F.S.99.

Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Parallel". My position 53° 26' N. (? longitude). Course 145°, speed 8 knots.
(VIMIERA, 2018A/20.)

Mining.

Humber area.

My 2120/17. (D) at 0811. LL Drifters BEN TARBERT and GEORGE D. IRVINE exploded a Magnetic mine in position 083° SPP 7.2 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 1030A/20.)

/Operation....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation S.N. 23 C. — Intend to carry out operation S.N.23 C. as follows:
(a) Deep minefield.
(d) WELSHMAN.
(f) from 058° 37'24" N. 007° 06' W. to 058° 40'24" N. 007° 00'55" W., 2000 on 21/9.
(j) through 058° 20' N. 005° 46' W. and 360° Butt of Lewis 5 miles.
(l) 0430/22.
(n) through 180° Sulisker 3 miles direct.
(o) Port ZA 1030/22.
(R.A.M., 1056A/20.)

Operation N.L.15. — Intend to carry out operation N.L.15 tonight Saturday returning to harbour before 0030/21.
(V.A. Dover, 1058A/20.)

Operation P.W.19. — Prepare to carry out operation P.W.19 with 4th M.T.B. Flotilla on first night weather is suitable.
(C. in C. Nore, 1436A/20 to BEEHIVE.)

S.S. PORTSDOWN Sunk. — At about 0415/20 S.R. Steamer PORTSDOWN was sunk by explosion in Swashway Channel when on passage from Portsmouth to Ryde. Survivors' statements are being obtained but no witness who was on deck at the time has so far been found. Estimate 20 to 25 persons are dead or missing.
C. in C. Portsmouth, 1544A/20.)

Milford Haven area. — Two mines detonated 20/9. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1845A/20.)

GLEN ALVA (mined 19/9) — N.C.S.O. Thames 1316A/19. Fishing boat LIBERTY with petrol engine was 150 yards astern of Cockle boat GLEN ALVA with Diesel engine, both boats trawling to westward. Engines dead slow. Mine exploded directly under GLEN ALVA. Two other fishing boats had recently passed close to position.
(C. in C. Nore, 2123A/20.)

Thames Estuary. — My 1559 (N.T. in W.D.) Amendment.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 2152/20.)

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

Suspected E-Boat activity.
(C. in C. Nore, 2223A/20.)
E-Boats are using the following frequency.
(Harwich W/T 2312A/20.)
E-Boats bear approximately 024° from T by D/F.
(Harwich W/T 2315A/20.)
3 E-Boats in position 53° 3' N. 1° 38' E.
(VIVIEN, 2318A/20.)
E-Boats bear approximately 025° from T by D/F.
(Harwich W/T 2355A/20.)

### Casualties and Defects.

PONTFIELD.

Departure in tow of tugs STALWART and KROOMAN escorted by H.M.T's STRATHGARRY and STRATHMAREE.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0638A/20.)

PENSTEMON

DEPTFORD's 0830A/19. Tug THAMES escorted by PENSTEMON. The latter reports she was unable to establish communications with Shore by W/T.
(DEPTFORD, 1210/20.)

TEDDINGTON.

Half of tanker in tow of two tugs escorted by two trawlers on passage to Humber by Q Z S 287 and Swept Channels is due 58A Buoy about 2000/20 estimated S. of A. 4½ knots.
(C. in C. Nore, 1635A/20.)
My 1635. Reported anchored 194° 2 miles from 58 buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 2145A/20.)

CITY OF DURBAN.

Intend sailing for Gravesend, thence to London Graving Dock Co., at 0900A/21. D.G. repaired and bomb removed.
(CITY OF DURBAN, 1929A/20.)

CAPE BAULD.

Following received CAPE BAULD in tow. E.T.A. Greenock 1000A/21.
(ST. OLAVES, 2015A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/LINCOLN.....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LINCOLN. Labour difficulties.
Re Admty. 1343A/4.
Owing to difficulties with labour at Harland and Wolff working party of E.R.A's lent to LINCOLN have had to be withdrawn. It is probable that difficulties as to employment of E.R.A's will be resolved in the near future. 1321/19. Ends.
In accordance with Admty. 1343A/4/9.
Arrangements were made to draft as many E.R.A's as possible to Destroyers refitting in various London repair yards in order to expedite refits. It is very regrettable that difficulties of this sort should occur. It does not reflect credit on the labour concerned and must inevitably hinder our efforts to expedite refits and repairs.
(C. in C. Nore, 2054A/20 to Admty.)

RUDILAIS.
Cancel my 1531/20 RUDILAIS developed defects.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2109A/20.)

MARCONI (M/S Tr.)
Sunk in approx. position S. 35 E. Rough Buoy 8 cables. KENIA picked up survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2139A/20, 2257A/20, 2359A/20.)
Arrival KENIA with survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2359A/20.)

### Shipping and Convoys.

Route Signals.
Increasing number of Route Signals received in which E.T.A. and S. of A. are inconsistent. This increases difficulty of plotting ship's position at Admiralty and may endanger the safety of the ship. In addition this necessitates an increasing volume of explanatory signals. N.C.S.O's are to make every endeavour to ensure that information required by Admty. 1954/7/7 and Amendments especially para. 8 is accurately complied with.
(D.T.D. 0014A/20 to C's. in C.)

Convoy P.Q.1.
Comply with Admty. 2238A/16. Request names.
(C. in C. W.A., 1122A/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

/Coasters.....

MOST SECRET

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

**Coasters.** Coasting vessels whose bona fides are well known, when proceeding to a port where there is no N.C.S.O., should be issued with Secret Identification Signals for Minimum number of periods necessary to cover their time at sea until they expect to call at a port where there is a N.C.S.O. S.P. Form R.S.4 must be sealed and bear the date stamp of the issuing office.
(D.T.D. 1134A/20 to A.I.G. 26.)

**P.Q.1.** A.M. 1359A/30/8 and 1849A/6.
Request you will sail Convoy P.Q.1 from Iceland and signal information required by A.M. 1859A/30/8.
Convoy will be ready to sail from Hvalfiord on 27/9; consists of following:-
CAPIRA, NORTH KING, VILLE D'ANVERS, ELNA II, LORGA, BLAIRNEVIS, ATLANTIC, HARMONIC, RIVER AFTON, GEMSTONE.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1157A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

**W.S.12.** Composition and date.
(A.C.N.S.(H) and (F) 1245A/20.)
See Lion Copy.

**S.C.42.** 45 ships arrived with Rear-Adm. W.B. Mackenzie as Cdre., including 17 Allied and 1 Neutral. Cargoes.
(D.S. 746, 20/9.)

**O.S.7.** Sailing of O.S.7 is to be postponed one day in order to include ships in E.C.75.
(D.T.D., 2139A/20 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH. — Your 0005A/20. (N.T. in W.R.) Am I to assume Y.1 patrol? (SCOTTISH 0120A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

H.G.73 — Departure HIGHLANDER to join H.G.73. Part company limit endurance to fuel at Londonderry. (F.O.C.N.A. 0806A/20 to Admty. etc.)

DENBYDALE, DURHAM, FIONA SHELL, 1-man S/M attack. — About 0800, explosions in DENBYDALE in harbour in 53 berth and DURHAM and FIONA SHELL anchored in Bay. Further signal follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/20 to Admty.)
DENBYDALE, R.F.A., tanker, 8145 tons.
DURHAM, British, 10,893 tons.
FIONA SHELL, oiling hulk. (D.O.R. 21/9.)
My 0910A. Apparently attack by one man S/M. Breathing apparatus recovered near DURHAM in Bay. Endeavouring to beach DURHAM, FIONA SHELL has sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 1044A/20 to Admty.)
F.O.C.N.A's 1044A/20. DENBYDALE no casualties, serious damage to tanks, cannot be repaired at Gibraltar taking into consideration Fleet requirements and it may be necessary to consider her as hulk. FIONA SHELL sank with one casualty Spanish stoker. All stocks of marine Diesel lost except for 1,000 tons. (C.S. Gib., 1916A/20 to Admty.)
My 1044A/20. DURHAM beached in commercial anchorage, full extent of damage not yet ascertained. DENBYDALE serious damage but afloat. (2) Investigation to date appears to indicate probable direct attack by submarine was synchronized with attack by two men submarines. (F.O.C.N.A., 2302A/20 to Admty.)

L'OBRINE. — Departure 19th Port Au Prince tug L'OBRINE for Casablanca. (R.O. Oporto, 1059/20 to M.E.W.)

Operation "C". — My 1437A/19 (MIRROR), propose carrying on operation "C". (COREOPSIS, 1129A/20 to F.O.C.N.A)

REMEDIOS. — Your 1432/28/8 not to Admiralty or N.A. Madrid. Spanish tanker REMEDIOS cleared Port Arthur for Barcelona 25/8 not yet passed Gibraltar. Noon position on 13/9 39° 35' N. 12.20 W.
(S.O.I Gib., 1142A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/THORN .....

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic - contd.

THORN. — Intend that THORN pass through 043° N. 010° 40' W. at 1700A/26 proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar. THORN is painted grey with white numbers and letter on conning tower. (Capt. S.3. 1447A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/C engaged by SCOTTISH. — One unidentified aircraft course unknown, bearing unknown, my bearing 359° from St.Vincent 230. (SCOTTISH 1535A/20 to Gib. W/T amended 1835A/20.)
My 1535A/20. Engaged enemy Focke-Wulfe who returned N.W. No apparent damage.
(SCOTTISH, 1615A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SAN ZAFERINO. — Your 1235A/19. Owners have been informed that SAN ZAFERINO will be requisitioned as soon as they have provided a crew and reported vessel ready to sail. When requisitioned, steam trial will be carried out with a view to sailing her for Freetown in company with FARADAY.
(D.T.D. 1856A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

### South Atlantic.

DALHEM. — Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1041/18. DALHEM arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1028B/20.)

JOHN WILLIAMSON, EGELAND. — Consular Shipping Adviser, Lourenco Marques, reports Norwegian minesweepers JOHN WILLIAMSON and EGELAND arrived at that port 1000/19 for repairs to latter, estimated time 5 days. If there is any risk of internment Consul General is requested to sail JOHN WILLIAMSON for Beira immediately and EGELAND for Durban if possible. Alternatively both ships to Durban, latter in tow. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1052B/20 to Admty.)
My 1052B/20. Governor-General has granted 5 days for repairs to EGELAND. JOHN WILLIAMSON has sailed for Beira. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 2114B/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic - contd.

**O.S. and S.L. Convoys.** Your 1656/28/8 and Admty. 2350/29/8. Nine days' notice of time of arrival of O.1 (?O.S.) convoys at 19° N. is required if possible in order to decide date of sailing of S.L. In order that this may be forecast as early and as accurately as possible request (a) date of sailing and E.T.A. at R/V as soon as sailed. (b) Corrected E.T.A. when local escort in North-Western Approaches leaves. (c) Any further information that can be given on passage. (C. in C. S.A. 1403N/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

**BIRMINGHAM.** Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Buenos Aires 1800 G.M.T./19 and intends to leave 1800 G.M.T./21. (R.A.S.A.D., 1431Z/20.)

**LL.Sweepers.** Request expected date of arrival of following vessels in Mediterranean, and that their passage be expedited as much as possible. 156th group of LL whalers, 158th group of LL trawlers, 167th group of LL whalers, NOBLE NORA Group. (D.M.S. 1528A/20 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

**LAVENDER, BERGAMOT for S.A.D.** Admty. 2219A/19 LAVENDER and BERGAMOT will be ready to sail 23/9. Request port or R/V. Endurance is about 20 days at 10 knots, 15 days at 12 knots, and 10 days at 14 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 1809N/20 to R.A.S.A.D.)

**STANVAC. Suspicious Vessel.** Following received from N.C.S.O. Santos. (repeats 1945Z/19) (C. in C. S.A. 2029N/20 to S.O. Force F., R.A.S.A.D.)

**Tristan da Cunha.** Your 1847A/19. Is it intended that both ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE shall call at Tristan Da Cunha? (C. in C. S.A. 2041N/20 to Admty.) Reply: Yes. (D.O.D.(F) 2241A/21.)

**Cruisers.** Your 2311/18. The releasing of A.M.C's will be of great assistance and this has already been felt; but speed and armament of these will not always be sufficient to bring successfully to action enemy raiders. Implementation of Admty. 1532/20/6 will be of great value. (C. in C.S.A. 2143N/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.9.1941
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Propeller"

Your 1625/19. (arrival of EMPIRE GUILLEMOT). Request you will convey Their Lordships' congratulations to all concerned in "Propeller". (V.C.N.S. 0221A/20 to V.A. Malta.)

Benghazi, Bardia bombed.

Night 18/19. 6 Wellingtons attacked shipping and quays at Benghazi. 1 bomb burst on or near ships at outer Mole. 3 F.A.A. Albacores bombed Gambut landing ground and 1 Albacore bombed Bardia.
Day 19/9. 6 Marylands bombed supply dumps North East of Gambut nearly all bombs bursting among dumps.
Egypt. My A854, 19/9. About 8 enemy aircraft attacked Suez and Port Said night 18/19, main effort concentrated on Suez. Bombs and magnetic mines dropped but no damage or casualties reported at either place. 3 Hurricanes up but did not intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1119/20.)

Bulgarian Ship sunk. BALCIC crew trouble.

Please inform N.L.O. Black Sea from N.S.O.(I) Istanbul. (A) Bulgarian steamer sunk about 17/9 between BALCIC and Bourgas with cargo of grain, believed torpedoed by Russian Submarine. B.1. (B) Crew of Roumanian S.S. (?BAL)CIC in Istanbul are refusing to sail for Aegean Sea. (Beyoglu, 1208/20 to S.O.I Med.)

PHOEBE.

A.M. 1053A/18 and B.A.R.M. 1442/19. PHOEBE will be repaired at U.S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn. Request your proposed programme for passage may be signalled as soon as practicable. (D.O.D.(F) 1244A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

UTMOST, Enemy Liner.

My 2052B/19. Speed may be as low as 13 knots. Remain in position until 2359B/20 unless sighted earlier. (Capt. S.10, 1257B/20 to UTMOST.)
A/C R/C report one large liner close off Kelibia Roads at 0945B/20 proceeding northwards at 17 knots escorted by 3 destroyers. Ship already damaged starboard side. (Capt. S. 10, 1340B/20 to UTMOST.)

Concerted Operations by 4 S/M's.

1. S/M's were disposed UNBEATEN 032° 52' N. 015° 03' E. UPHOLDER 032° 57' N. 014° 53' E. UPRIGHT 033° 01' N. 014° 42' E. URSULA 032° 53' N. 013° 45' E. The first 3 sailed in company with orders to maintain distance and line of bearing from UPHOLDER by supersonic telegraphy and sighting to be reported in S E 609. Hope that 3 were sufficiently eastward for night attack and URSULA west for daylight. Torpedoes of all S/M's set to 18 feet all were mark (VIII) except UPRIGHT who had salvo of mark 4 S.

/2.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.9.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Concerted Operations by 4 S/M's contd.

2. Following occurred, UNBEATEN 2 miles 150° from Billet sighted convoy at 0307/18 distant 8 miles to northward and made enemy report by supersonic telegraphy and W/T, latter only received by UPHOLDER and UPRIGHT.
3. UPHOLDER sighted convoy at 0350 consisting of 3 very large liners with 4 or more destroyers, enemy apparently steering steady course 260° passing to northwards, UPHOLDER closed full speed on the surface and at 0406 fired 4 torpedoes scoring one hit on two separate targets. UPHOLDER dived for 35 minutes but on surfacing saw one liner stopped in position of attack and one making westward at about 5 knots.
4. UPRIGHT on receiving UNBEATEN's enemy report moved south at full speed until considered in Grane and at 0500 turned towards position of 2 damaged ships just reported by UPHOLDER, 0508 sighted destroyers manoeuvring to eastward, no big ship sighted.
5. At 0625 URSULA 2 miles to eastward of Billet sighted destroyer stopped to southward with M A S alongside, at 0656 sighted liner escorted by one Navigatori approaching from eastward. At 0705 fired 4 torpedoes one hit, no counter attack, target identified as VULCANIA. At 0725 enemy observed continuing towards Tripoli at slightly reduced speed and definite list of about 5°.
6. With daylight UNBEATEN and UPHOLDER both closed stopped liner mentioned in paragraph 3 and at 0851 UPHOLDER fired 2 torpedoes both hits and ship sank in 8 minutes, at this time boats were turned out but not manned, 3 destroyers in company and 3 approaching.
7. Reference URSULA's attack considered hit was aft with first torpedo, speed allowed 18 knots but probably ship was doing full speed.
(V.A. Malta, 1421B/20.)

Malta Raid.

Night 19/20. About 6 Enemy aircraft approached Malta, 1 crossed Coast. Bombs in sea. Incendiaries on land. No damage or casualties.
Day 20/9. 3 Enemy fighters crossed Island 23,000 feet. Hurricanes up, no interceptions.

Flotilla leader damaged.

Evening 19/9. 2 Blenheims despatched attack liner 24,000 tons off Tripoli in half light failed locate liner owing W T failure shadowing aircraft. 1 Blenheim attacked Flotilla leader, stationary with light on, outside Tripoli 4,250 lbs. direct hits amidships below funnel resulting masses of black smoke increasing and could be seen from a considerable distance, claimed badly damaged, no opposition from Flotilla leader and only moderate A.A from Newar by Torpedo boat. Other aircraft found target.

/Tripoli

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.9.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

**Tripoli bombed.** Night 19/20. 7 Swordfish offensive sweep area Kerkenah Lampion. 24,000 ton liner sighted leaving Tripoli, no ships found. 7 Wellingtons attacked MV Spanish Quay and moles Tripoli 2216 - 0018 hrs. Hits Spanish Mole and quay, Arab quarters, and central town areas.

**M/V claimed sunk.** Day 20/9. 4 Blenheims shipping sweep sighted 2 MV 3,000 ton off Kerkenah northbound 1452 hours. 1 MV heavily laden hit amidships on waterline. Crew took to the boats and ship left on fire and settling down, claimed sunk.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/20.)

**TRIUMPH.** Probably little traffic in Bauxite but timber and lignite being shipped from Sibenik and Dubrovnik, routes not known. Everything fair game no questions need be asked.
(Capt. S.1, 1615B/20 to TRIUMPH.)

**2 French Tankers.** Cancel my 1749C/19. Ships not yet entered Straits. Expected tonight or tomorrow.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1636C/20 to S.O.I. Med.)

**Italian Fleet.** Admty. 1521/12. Following is believed disposition of effective Italian main units; latest date 12/9. Taranto; 2 battleship LITTORIO, one CONTI DE CAVOUR class, 6 6-inch cruisers. Messina; 2 8-inch cruisers, one 6-inch cruiser. Palermo; 2 6-inch cruisers (one possibly (?damaged)). Trapani; one 6-inch cruiser. Tyrrhenean Sea; 2 CONTI DE CAVOUR class battleships (no recent report). (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1710B/20 to S.C. Force H. etc.) See also Admty. 1040A/21.

**Gozo defence.** Following from Chiefs of Staff No.170.
1. We have carefully considered your views on the defence of Gozo. We agree that its defence is desirable on both military and political grounds.
2. At the same time the defence of Gozo cannot be said to be vital to the security of Malta. For that reason and because of our liabilities in other theatres, we do not propose to undertake further reinforcement at present.
In coming to this decision we have been influenced primarily by the difficulties of transporting and subsequently maintaining additional troops. Should the transportation situation in either the Eastern or Western Mediterranean become appreciabl easier later on, we should review this decision.
(1st S.L. 2346A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

Sinking of TAIKOO 17/9. N.O.i/c Massawa's 1658/17. (1) This regrettable loss means a setback to salvage operations at Massawa where many valuable prizes still lie in shallow water. (2) Request a salvage officer be flown out as soon as possible to replace Stenhouse. (3) Presume C. in C. Med. cannot spare CONFEDERATE (ex PROTECTOR) until relieved by VALKYRIEN which is still at the Cape. Request therefore the latter may be hastened. (C. in C. E.I., 1402Z/20 to Admty.)

### America and West Indies.

A.M.C's. Add to my 1455Z/16. Administration of A.M.C.'s at present under orders of R.A.3.B.S. will be carried out by C. in C. A. and W.I. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0225Z/20.)

Task Forces. Groups mentioned Opnav 0525/19 (?0425/19 intended) assisted by available patrol planes assigned following tasks. Iceland, observe Denmark Strait and Northerly Approaches thereto. Argentia, ready cover line Newfoundland - Azores and northward thereof. Bermuda, ready proceed northeastward. All groups ready co-ordinate movements with each other and British heavy units. (Spenavo, 0845/20 to Admty.)

AURANIA. My 1542Q/17. Practice cancelled owing to weather, and sailing postponed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/20 to R.A.3 B.S.)

Western Patrol fuelling. F.O.C.N.A's 1046A/19th. Suggest in view of small coal stock and shortage of water at Bermuda, only those ships which are oil fired and self supporting in water should go to Bermuda, and the remainder to Halifax. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/20 to Admty.)

CALIFORNIA. My 1114R/19 is cancelled. CALIFORNIA is now to proceed to Boston as directed in my 1726R/11 arriving on 22/9. (B.A.R.M. 1056R/20 to R.A.3 B.S.)

/CAP DES PALMES

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies - contd.

CAP DES PALMES, CHEVREUIL. — My 1820R/16. Kingston departures Free French A.M.C. CAP DES PALMES in company with CHEVREUIL. Former has on board B.N.L.O. and Commandant Laporte of French High Commissioner's staff both accompanied by wives. Request Admiralty inform A.C.F.N.F.I. and French N.F.I. and French High Commissioner LE TRIOMPHANT.
(Capt. i/c Jamaica, 1230R/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.C.44. — Following is recyphered version my 19/2113 which was cyphered in CSP 1139 begins - Opnav repeated C. in C. Lant Admiralty 325 C.C.N.F. from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Corvette LEVIS was torpedoed at 0410Z/19 in 60° 07' N. 38° 37' W. and being towed by Corvette MAYFLOWER. This leaves only one destroyer and three Corvettes as escort for convoy S.C.44. Are there any American Units in vicinity who could assist escort of this convoy? (ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1234/20 to Admty.)

BADALONA. — Your 2128/18. BADALONA's voyage was cancelled and she went to Teneriffe later with approval of M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 1316A/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

CANDYTUFT. — A.M. 1917A/19. CANDYTUFT now ready for towage. (C.C.N.F., 1509Z/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
C.C.N.F. 2045/18, Admty. 1917/19. Request you advise where permanent repairs can be made to CANDYTUFT, also if ship should be towed direct to that port or to Halifax for temporary repairs. Could she be taken in hand at Boston now repairs to NIAGARA cancelled at that port?
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1711Z/20 to B.A.R.M. amended 1441Z/21.)

CITY OF WINDSOR. — Due St. Thomas V.I., 12/9 from Capetown not yet arrived. (S.O.I., Jamaica 1553R/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

"R" Report. — Following from Philadelphia. Br. EASTGATE position 01.22 S. 39.07 W. heard an RRRR message accompanied by much jamming from us. KATAHDIN estimated 200 miles distant at 0358 G.M.T. (Ends) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1631Z/20 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/TRENTON

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.9.1941. Saturday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| TRENTON CONCORD (U.S.N.) | For information. TRENTON with Commander S.E. Pacific Force embarked, and CONCORD left Balboa for sea 18/9. Details of cruising plan will be communicated later. (Opnav 1736Z/20 to Admty.) |
| U.S. Navy. | Movement Report Supplement. (Opnav. 1910Z/20 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. |
| Task Groups. | 1. Area 2. A.T. 1201A/17, 1811A/14 (para 1) Route given for group 2.5 has been cancelled. Further information will follow.<br>2. Area 3. Group 3.5 (MILWAUKEE, WARRINGTON) leave Pernambuco 21/9 for Trinidad, arriving 27/9. Group 3.6 (OMAHA, SOMERS) leave Pernambuco 24/9 to arrive in 15° N. 26° W. on 29/9. Group 3.7 (MEMPHIS, DAVIS) leave St. Thomas (Virgin Is.) 20/9 for Pernambuco where they are due 1/10. Group 3.8 (CINCINNATI, JOUETT) leave San Juan 28/9 to arrive Pernambuco on 9/10. (D.O.D.F. 2309A/20 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.) |

### Australia.

| | |
|---|---|
| KANIMBLA, MANOORA. | Admty. 0001A/8 A.C.N.B. have been considering method of returning personnel of KANIMBLA to Australia for leave and suggest convenient opportunity would be provided by the temporary exchange of Stations between KANIMBLA and MANOORA. Ships are almost identical except that MANOORA carries Walrus aircraft. MANOORA could arrive at Colombo about end of November and KANIMBLA could then proceed to Sydney for leave and if desired, (? short) refit, returning to East Indies Station about end of February. If proposals are concurred in, arrangements will be made with C. in C. East Indies accordingly. (A.C.N.B. 0205Z/20 to Admty. etc.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.42,
JEDMOOR,
EMPIRE
SPRINGBUCK.
VESTLAND,
GYPSUM QUEEN,
SALLY MAERSK,
THISTLE GLEN.

Now known that British JEDMOOR, 4392 tons, from Santos to Tyne, with iron ore, was among ships of S.C.42 torpedoed and sunk. Another ship, EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK, 5591 tons, Sydney to London with phosphates, is reported missing. VESTLAND 1934 tons, which was torpedoed in this convoy, has arrived in port with 26 survivors from GYPSUM QUEEN, 3915 tons, now presumed sunk. SALLY MAERSK, 3252 tons, and THISTLEGLEN, 4748 tons, also now presumed sunk.
(D.S., 746, 20/9.)

S.C.44.
LEVIS
(corvette)
T.J.WILLIAMS.
EMPIRE BURTON.
PINK STAR.
BARBRO.

Attack is concentrated, numerous ships torpedoed and sunk. Convoy scattered.
(CHESTERFIELD, 0200Z/20, to C. in C.W.A.)
W.A.C.I. Part 102 (a) Escort counter attacked, no definite result and further details not available at present. (b) correctly signalled (c) Escort in N.E.4 (d) Tanker T.J.WILLIAMS holed engine room, possible salvage. EMPIRE BURTON, PINK STAR, and tanker name unknown at present, sunk (e) 2325Z/19 061° 36' N., 035° 07' W.,(f) 025° 25' previous course 055° (g) fine weather, moderately light (h) nil.
(CHESTERFIELD, 0347/20.)
T.J.WILLIAMS, Brit. tanker, 8211 tons, Baltimore to Stanlow, Pool Spirit.
EMPIRE BURTON, British, 6966 tons, Halifax to Liverpool, Wheat.
PINK STAR (ex LUNDBY) Panamanian, 4150 tons, New York to Liverpool, General.
BARBRO, Norwegian tanker, 6325 tons, New York to Stanlow, Gasoline. (D.S.747, 21/9.)
U.S. State Dept., announced 22/9 that former Danish PINK STAR, now owned by U.S.Govt., sunk near Iceland on 19/9. She was flying the Panama flag. The vessel, which was requisitioned by the Maritime Commission on 12/7, sailed from New York on 3/9 with a general cargo.
(The Times, 23/9/41.)
C. in C.W.A's 1706A/?19 (N.T.in W.D.)HONEYSUCKLE has picked up over 100 survivors of ships torpedoed. Possibility of other boats and rafts with survivors in vicinity. MAYFLOWER has been instructed to pass through position of attack and make search. Not possible for ships to remain in vicinity any longer to search owing to further attack. Weather fine and settled.
(CHESTERFIELD, 0430Z/20 to C. in C.W.A.)
LEVIS sank 1915Z/19 MAYFLOWER rejoining convoy.
(CHESTERFIELD, 0435Z/20 to C. in C.W.A., Admty.)
S.C.44 attacked by concentration of U Boats in 061° 44' N., 034° 50' W., at 0200Z/20. Convoy scattered. Proceed to this position and then sweep along track of convoy.
(C. in C.W.A., 0537A/20 to ARROWHEAD, EYEBRIGHT.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.44. (LEVIS corvette.) T.J.WILLIAMS. EMPIRE BURTON. PINK STAR. BARBRO. Contd.

Situation report.S.C.44 heavily attacked and is now probably separated into portions which should be proceeding along the general line of advance of the convoy. Some of these portions may endeavour to reform on their estimated noon positions of the 20 and 21st. The escort force of 1 destroyer and 6 corvettes are still in the vicinity of the convoy.
(D.T.D. 1316Z/20 to O.P.N.A.V.)
1300Z/20, 062° (? 39') N., 034° 55' W., Course 070° speed 7 knots. 2 ships straggled from convoy. Tanker BARBRO torpedoed at 0130Z/20. There may be boats within the vicinity of attack.
(CHESTERFIELD, 1502Z/20.) Weather

MARKEN (torpedoed 10/9.)

N.C.S.O.Santos reports Dutch MARKEN was torpedoed and sunk in 01° 36' N., 36° 55' W., at 1753Z on 10/9. Master thinks S/M was Italian of GALILEO FERRAMAI (?FERRARIS) class or GIOVANNI DA PROCIDA class fitted with two guns but was German manned. S/M painted light grey with red band around top of conning tower.
(S.O.I.Monte Video, 1754Z/20, to R.A.S.A.D.)
Details of attack and disposal of C.B.'s.
(N.C.S.O. Santos, 1250Z/20.)
Cardiff to Capetown with a cargo of aircraft.
(D.S.747.)

Submarines Reported.

0759Z.

By D/F at 0759Z/20. U Boat in area of 49°N., to 50° 30' N., 21° to 24° W. May have reported a convoy. Either SL.86 or OG.74 or WS.11X.
(D.D.I.C. 1006A/20 to EGRET, HILLARY, DEPTFORD, V.A.2, H.Q.C.C. etc.

Estimated U/B dispositions. Several attacking Convoy S.C.44 about 62° 30': 33° 30'.
(D.D.I.C. 1432A/20.)

1349Z.

By D/F at 1349Z/20, position of German U/Boat, probably homeward bound, was approx., 46° 00' N., 47° 30' N., 5° 00' W. - 6° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1544A/20.)

1512C.

By D/F U-boat in 069° 27' N., 043° 52' E., at 1512C/20. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 1610Z/20.)

/1730Z.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.9.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

1730Z. 1 submarine bearing 290° distant 12 miles approx., course 190° my position 048° 34' N., 022° 15' W., submarine dived on approach of aircraft.
(DEPTFORD, 1730Z/20, to Admty., etc.)
BLANKNEY and WITCH have joined DEPTFORD in position 098°, 49° N., 23° W., 15, in hunt for U-Boats.
(WITCH, 2205A/20, to C. in C.W.A.)

1915. Probable sighting report from Italian U Boat at 1915/20.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2032A/20 to Escorts of H.G.73.)

St. Nazaire. A/C R/C reports 3 U-boats leaving St. Nazaire at 1630/20.
(D.D.I.C.2319A/20 to P.34, S/M's on Patrol Area A.)

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in 62.43 N., 31.02 W.
(A/C Duty O,1630/20, to Reykjavik A.O.C.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface, when sighted was on course 07° estimated speed 6 knots.
(A/C,O,1645/20.)
Am over enemy submarine in 62.45 N., 30.15 W.
(A/C, O,1740/20.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface, when sighted was on course 090° speed 5 knots.
(A/C, O, 1745/20.)
Have attacked enemy with level bombs and estimate one hit.
(A/C, O, 1748/20.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Harwich, the Thames Estuary and Medway were closed on account of fog during the greater part of daylight today.

Russian Submarines

The Russians report that a total of 10 of their S/M's have now passed through the Stalin Canal.

TIGRIS's Operations.

S.N.O. Murmansk reports that on 13/9 TIGRIS sank the unescorted 2000 ton westbound vessel off Rolvsoy Sound and torpedoed a 3000 ton ship in convoy on 17/9.

E-Boats

At 0325 today MEYNELL with F.S. 9 reported 5 E-Boats near Newarp Light Float. These were possibly the same boats which attacked F.N. 21 earlier in the night. The destroyers drove off the enemy and report one E-Boat probably damaged, although thick weather prevented air search. None of our vessels suffered casualties or damage.

British Air Operations

30 aircraft attacked docks and shipping at Ostend last night.

Enemy Air Operations

SS WALMER CASTLE (Rescue Ship) in O.G. 74 was bombed and set on fire in 47° 16' N., 22° 15'W at 1204A today by a F.W. aircraft which was subsequently destroyed by a fighter. WALMER CASTLE was sunk by gunfire.

SS MALANCAA reported being attacked at 1101 today.

SS SITALA reported being attacked at 1102 today in 46° 57' N., 22° 2' W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

**Mining**

V.A.Dover considers that our minelaying in the shipping channels off the French Coast since 15/9 in conjunction with his proposed minelaying policy will drive enemy traffic further from the coast and afford more favourable opportunities for air and surface attack.

Mining
Thames Estuary

SS VANCOUVER (tanker) in F.S. 99 was mined at 1100 today whilst anchoring in Barrow Deep and sank later. Other mines were exploded in the Estuary.

Harwich was closed at 0050 today owing to suspected minelaying and remained closed until 1605A owing to fog in addition.

South Atlantic

U.S. ship ROBIN HOOD reports sighting at 1930 G.M.T./9 in 10° 4' S., 26° 58' W. a suspicious vessel resembling the German ATLANTIS.

Mediterrancan

At 1753 today, at last light 2 Blenheims attacked a 24,000ton northbound liner escorted by 6 destroyers in the Gulf of Hammamet, and secured 8 hits with 250lb bombs and one on the waterline causing the vessel to stop.
(A liner (apparently this one) was sighted stationary off Kuriat Island at 0950/22.)

Palestine schooner ANTAR was set on fire by U-Boat and sank later after being missed by torpedo at 2300 today whilst on passage from Beirut to Haifa. SOUTHERN SEA was unsuccessfully bombed whilst endeavouring to tow the hull of ANTAR to Beirut.

Dardanelles

The anti torpedo boom is now reported in complete operation.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1941.
Sunday

## SITUATION REPORT

### East Indies

French Launch REWAK carrying petrol from Jibuti to Obok has been intercepted and taken to Zeilah and is being retained in prize.

### America and West Indies.

Raider Search — Positions of U.S. patrols at 1200 G.C.T. today
CONCORD (cruiser) south of Galapagos Is.
TRENTON (Cruiser) west of Galapagos Is.
ERIE (gunboat) and two destroyers east of Galapagos Is.

### U-Boat Campaign

Attack on O.G. 74. — RUNA was torpedoed at 2150 in 45° 57' N., 22° 13' W. LISSA, RHINELAND and one other ship are absent from the convoy since last night.

ANTAR — See Mediterranean

VIMY reported at 2115A that she had damaged a submarine in 37° 46' N., 19° 18' W.
The S/M has dived and VIMY is searching.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

D.C. unit Target Boats at Scapa — Re. (C. in C. H.F. 2256A/21.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

Russian S/M's. — Kuznetsov has told me that five more (making a total of ten) submarines have now been passed through Stalin Canal. (Ad. Miles 18090/21.)

### Movements.

H.32 — H.32 escorted by ST. KENAN left Londonderry at 2100A/20 for Rothesay and may be met during the night. (C. in C. W.A. 0141A/21 to BARBOUR etc.)

EREBUS. — Following is a repetition of my 2236A begins. After passing May Island proceed your best speed and endeavour to arrive at Sheerness by 1900/22. Proceed by C.Z.S. 287. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 0150A/21 to EREBUS.)

H.28. — Intended to sail H.28 escorted by ST. KENAN at 2000A/22 from Rothesay to Londonderry. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0800A/23. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
(Capt. S.7. 1019A/21.)

SEALION. SEAWOLF. — SEALION leaves Bay of Biscay North zone after dark 22/9 routed as follows to R/V end of Q Z S 169 at 0630A/25. (Capt. S.5. 1421A/21.)
SEAWOLF leaves for patrol at 1630/22nd routed as follows. S.B.R. are arranged as follows.
(Capt. S.5. 1430A/21.)

WITCH BLANKNEY. — Disregard my 1120A/21. WITCH and BLANKNEY proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 2249A/21 to WITCH, BLANKNEY.)

### Operations.

E-Boats. — Fast hydrophone effects indicate 3 motor boats heard in 053° 30' N. 000° 50' E. Cannot find anything with star shells. Have only 12 star shells left. (VIVIEN 0313A/21.)
Five E-Boats bearing 110° 25 miles from Cromer. (MEYNELL 0325/21.)
Damaged E-Boat somewhere in vicinity of 7 buoy. (Yarmouth 0352/21.)

/Search

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations - contd.

**Search for damaged E-boat.**

Circumstances permitting leave patrol now and return via 60 Buoy Smith's Knoll and 55 Buoy to search for damaged E-boat. (C. in C. Nore 0507A/21 to M.L.320.)
Fuel permitting proceed forthwith to 7 buoy and search on line 100° for 15 miles for damaged E-boat. (C. in C. Nore 0531A/21 to POPPY, M.L.187, M.L.191.)

**Convoys F.N.21 and F.S.9 attacked by E-boats.**

Attacks were made by E-boats as follows:
(1) On F.N.21 near 57A Buoy between 2310 and 2330/20 probably by 6 boats. VIVIEN reports tracks of 3 torpedoes seen and attack driven off by destroyers. 1 E-boat probably damaged.
(2) Later at 0325/21 MEYNELL with F.S.9 reported 5 E-boats near Newarp Light Float. These boats had apparently approached from astern of the convoy and may have been the same craft that had previously attacked F.N.21. This second attack was again driven off by destroyers the enemy retiring on course 100 degs. from No.7 buoy. MEYNELL reports 1 E-boat probably damaged. Search by destroyers M.L's and M.G.B's failed to locate damaged boats - air search not possible owing to thick weather. No casualties or damage in any of our vessels during either attack. (C. in C. Nore 1207A/21.)

**TIGRIS Report. Two M/V's sunk.**

TIGRIS arrived. Reports one M.T.B., one Minesweeper, one Hospital Ship, and following 5 M/V's sighted from 10/9 to 17/9. Details.
Of the 5 M/V's sighted 2 were sunk as follows.
At 1115C/13, one 2000 ton M/V attacked in Rolvsoy Sound. One hit. Vessel sank immediately and survivors from rafts seen rescued by fishing vessel.
At 1304C/17 one 3000 ton M/V attacked near 70° 14' N. 21° 8' E. One hit estimated and vessel seen stopped and large column of black (?smoke) observed from her for 20 minutes. One other vessel and M.T.B. subsequently observed proceeding and 14 explosions heard. Minesweeper observed sweeping area on 18/9.
(B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1231C/21.)

**East Coast Patrols.**

Patrols tonight (1) 3 M.G.Bs Patrol 310° 10 miles from South Leman Buoy. (2) 2 M.G.Bs patrol 010° to 190° 5 miles from Smith's Knoll Buoy. (3) 1 M.G.B. on Q E with A/P patrolling F Y (4) 2 M.T.B's returning to Harwich from Eastward at daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1543A/21.)

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity.

**Search for E. Boat.**
Request aircraft search at dawn from Sarp Float in direction 100° for damaged E-boat. (MEYNELL 0327A/21 to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 0427. Aircraft grounded. (C. in C. Nore. 0537A/21 to MEYNELL.)

**A/C for ARGUS.**
Your 1951A/20. Confirm 2 Fulmars of No.818 Squadron. (ARGUS 1335A/21.)
Your 1335A/21. My 1951A/20 received by F.O.i/c Greenock only, stated 2 Swordfish of 818 Sqdn. (D.N.A.D. 2008A/21 to ARGUS.)

**Bombing operations. 3 M/V's and 1 Flak Ship sunk. 3 M/V's damaged.**
On 20/9 direct hits were obtained on 3 ships between 10,000 and 5,000 tons and a Flak ship of 800 tons off the Dutch coast, and these are claimed as total loss. 3 other M/V's were left on fire.
The Fish Oil Factory at Floro, north of Bergen, and the docks at Cherbourg were also bombed.
During the night 20/21 Ostend, Kiel, Warnemunde, Sylt, Amrum and Borkum were attacked.
(H.Q.B.C. 1540/21.)

**Escort for LONDON.**
C. in C. H.F. 1359/21. Expect A/S escort by Hudson A/C until last light tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1648/21 to LONDON.)

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Yarmouth bombed.**
Yarmouth bombed 0240/21. No naval damage.
(F.O.I.C Yarmouth 0912A/21.)

**Unknown Ship.**
De MALANCAA AAAA De 35 attacked aircraft. Ends.
(Valentia Radio 1101/21)

**SITALA.**
Attacked by aircraft 46° 57' N. 22° 02' W. de GLD. (SITALA via Lands End 1102/21.)

**Convoy O.G.74. WALMER CASTLE (British, 906 Tons) sunk.**
WALMER CASTLE bombed and set on fire in 047° 16' N. 022° 15' W. at 12047A/21 by F.W aircraft subsequently destroyed by fighter. WALMER CASTLE sunk by gunfire. DEPTFORD 84 survivors, 20 seriously injured and 2 require immediate hospital treatment. MARIGOLD 15. Master of WALMER CASTLE missing. 29 not accounted for. DEPTFORD proceeding best speed direct Gibraltar unless orders to contrary are received.
(DEPTFORD 1750A/21) (C. in C. W.A. 2219A/21.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich. Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0050A/21.)

S.N.23 C. My 1056/20. Request air A/S escort from first light until 0900/22. (R.A.M. 1011A/21.) Departure WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A.2017/21.)

N.L.27. Intend to carry out operation N.L.27 tonight from 50° 58' 06" N. 01° 46' 12" E. (V.A. Dover 1133A/21.)

Operation J.U. (i) Object. To lay mines between 50° N. 0° 50' E. and 50° 7' N. 1° 1' E. mines being laid in groups on a zigzag course.
(iii) Intelligence. As in my 1417/19.
(iv) Execution. MANXMAN is to leave Portsmouth, passing gate at 1745/21 and proceed to carry out lay ordered. At night lay MANXMAN is to return to Milford Haven. MANXMAN has full discretion to cancel operation or jettison mines if circumstances so require. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1203A/21.)

Convoy F.S.99. VANCOUVER (British Tanker, 5729 Tons) sunk. S.S. VANCOUVER mined and sinking on fire in about 263° 2 miles from Sunk. 3 survivors in WALLACE. Tug not required. PUFFIN standing by. (WALLACE 1214A/21.)
Departure tug KENIA to assist VANCOUVER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1447A/21.)
VANCOUVER in two pieces. After part sunk. Fore part anchored 263° 2.2 miles from Sunk. Fore part blazing and sea round both parts on fire, impossible to approach or do anything at present. If fire in fore part dies out and it still floats, salvage may be possible. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1447A/21, 1819A/21, Salvage Officer, Harwich 1830A/21, Cdre i/c Sheerness 2202A/21.)

Effect of French Coast Mining. Since 15th September 5 strings of magnetic mines containing a percentage of the more sensitive type have been laid across the shipping channels off the French Coast in this area in addition to 3 permanent and 3 temporary strings laid in June and July. Recent R D F plots have shown that shipping now use a route to seaward of the former swept channels and this has coincided with a considerable increase of minesweeping activity between Boulogne and Gravelines believed to be anti-magnetic.

/The

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Effect of French Coast Mining contd. | The connection between these facts is probably a real one and the existing and proposed mine-laying policy promises to drive traffic further from the coast and afford more favourable opportunities for air and surface attack and greatly increase the enemy's minesweeping commitments. It will also favour long range artillery attack. My 1317A/18 and A14/0/895/41 of 16/9/41 refer. (V.A. Dover 1215A/21.) |
| Off Foulness on 19/9. | Two Type C Mines detonated by MEYNELL at 1458/19 and 1503/19 respectively. Details. (D.21 1457/21) |
| P.W.19. | My 1436A/20. Intend to carry out operation P.W. 19 with two M.T.B's tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1540A/21.) |
| Newhaven Minefield. | N.O.I.C. Newhaven reports Newhaven minefield now in complete operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1543A/21.)<br>My 0050A/21/9 and 0801A/21. Port of Harwich now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1605A/21.) |
| Shetlands. | A German V. Type mine was sunk in 60° 4' 30" N. 1° 27' W. on 20/9 by our mine disposal party. This mine was seen just one foot below the surface and bobbed up occasionally. The mine was in good condition, appearing to be very new, and apparently moored. It was sunk in 58 fathoms. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1720A/21.) |
| Thames Estuary. | One Magnetic Mine detonated at 0233/21 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1739/21.)<br>BLACKTHORN reports that at 0723A/21 when 1½ cables 144° from Hope Buoy and on steady course N 23° W speed 6 knots a mine exploded one cable astern. (C. in C. Nore 1830A/21.) |
| Off Bembridge on 20/9. | One magnetic mine detonated by L L sweep at 1005/20. Details. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1855A/21.) |

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Miscellaneous.

Fog.

Port of Harwich closed owing to Fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0801A/21.)
Thames and Medway closed owing to fog. (X.D.O. Sheerness 0955/21.)
Until fog clears traffic is not to proceed further down river than Gravesend. (F.O.I/c London 1127/21.)
Thames and Medway are open. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1400/21, F.O.I.C. London 1519/21.)

### Technical.

Convoys to North Russia. Signalling Procedure.

Pass A.M.1859A/30/8 to ELECTRA and HARRIER. (D.S.O. 0255A/21 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

### Casualties and Defects.

CHURCHILL.

Have gyro and A/S defects. (CHURCHILL 0725Z/21.)

VERITY.

Owing to further defects VERITY will not be ready for service until p.m./23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1111A/21.)

INCHGOWER (Suspected sabotage.)

Suspect sabotage of INCHGOWER's degaussing gear while at Falmouth on 19/9. Ship is being sailed to Falmouth with convoy P.W.38 for investigation forthwith. (C. in C. Plymouth 1131/21 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

GRAPH.

Result of trials of GRAPH. Details. Heavy weather may aggravate latent damage but it is considered improbable that this would be sufficient to endanger her. Anticipate ready to sail 25/9. (A.C.I.C. 1211/21.)

TIGRIS.

Asdic oscillator flooded on 7/9 and out of action for remainder of patrol. (B.S.N.O. Murmansk 1231C/21.)

MARCONI (Collision on 20/9.)

My 2257A/20. Wreck is in 51° 54.6' N. 1° 30.8' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1229A/21.)

PONTFIELD. (Mined 15/9)

Immingham departure Tug SABINE at 1255 to assist Tug STALWART towing M/V PONTFIELD. (F.O. Humber 1300A/21.)

/CELANDINE

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

CELANDINE. Arrived. Urgent defects of boiler tubes. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1453/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.12. Adm. 1245/20, para.11. BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, and NEWARK detailed. (R.A.(M) 1121A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you will sail SIKH as convenient to arrive Clyde not later than 28/9.
2. SIKH will be required to form part of escort for W.S.12 leaving Clyde on 30/9 subsequently joining the command of Force H.
(D.O.D.H. 1810A/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

LOCHNAGAR. Your 1326A/17. Crew of LOCHNAGAR refuse to sail until D.G. repaired, estimated time 5 days. She will therefore be unable to sail in S.D.12. (A.C.I.C. 1223/21 to Admty.)

CHARLES L.D. Can now proceed. (D.G.R.O. Clyde 1355/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

O.S.Convoys. Your 1403N/20. Daily position of O.S.Convoys from our situation report will in future be signalled while convoys are in Western Approaches Command Area. E.T.A. at Southern R/V cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy nine days in advance. If circumstances permit W/T silence being broken, the procedure of reporting as in W.A.C.I. part 132, para.15 is to be amended to read 6 days in advance. (C. in C. W.A. 1601A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

E.C. and F.N. Convoys. Programme to 1/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1610/21, D.T.D. 1844A/21) See Lion Copy.

E.C.76. Sailing postponed 24 hours, necessitates postponing W.N.84 by one day. (D.T.D. 1830A/21 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

| | |
|---|---|
| TRUANT. | On entering N.A. Station report P.C. and S. of A and weather.<br>(2) Wireless watch. (3) Only messages containing your delivery group need be decoded.<br>(F.O.C.N.A., 0906A/21 to TRUANT). |
| SEGUNDO ENRIQUE.<br>PRIMER ENRIQUE.<br>suspect. | My 2320/8 SEGUNDO ENRIQUE, 113 tons, believed painted white with number 5300 on set, also PRIMER ENRIQUE, 101 tons, creosoted, believed to be transmitting intelligence useful to enemy on short wave set. Likely to be met in Cadiz, Gibraltar, or Canary Is. area. If encountered prompt action must be taken to prevent destruction of incriminating documentary or other evidence and ship sent in under armed guard.<br>(F.O.C.N.A., 1155/21 to Gibraltar Force, Trawlers Western Patrol). |
| Convoy. | Convoy is 1¼ hours late. (F.O. Force H., 1234A/21 to ZULU, FORESIGHT). |
| Force H., Intelligence. | Your 1643/19, Concur. (F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/21 to V.A. Malta). |
| P.34. | (1) Carry out dive patrol in area within 30 miles 042° 50' 010° 40'. Look out for U-boat.<br>(2) My 1410A/20 leave patrol so as to pass through (Q) at 1600A/25 and R/V escort at (R) 0800A/26. Report if unable to comply within 1 hour.<br>(3) Gibraltar broadcasting L/F frequency is now 44.8 kc/s. (F.O.C.N.A., 1306A/21 to P.34). |
| French Convoy. | Gibraltar 0750, French armed Trawler TOURTERELLE, French ships CHELMA, MORON, AUGUSTE DENISE, all light with deck cargo, TOURS light deck cargo lorries steam and motor boats, VILLE DE HAVRE light deck cargo, life saving rafts, westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1653A/21 to Admty etc). |
| VIMY. | Cancel my 1216A/21. VIMY return to Gibraltar on relief by HIGHLANDER. (F.O.C.N.A., 2014A/21 to VIMY). |

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

ROBIN HOOD suspicious ship.

U.S.S.ROBIN HOOD reports sighting at 1930 G.M.T./9 in 10° 04' S., 26° 58' W., large cargo vessel half laden steering 023° speed 14 knots. Master's suspicions aroused because of close resemblance of vessel to photograph of ATLANTIS (No. 16) recently published in American Journal "Life" (description) (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1055B/21 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Corvettes.

Your 2057/18. Distribution of available A/S forces is under constant review with object of allocating them in proportion to the volume of trade requiring protection and the degree of threat to that trade.
2. Redistribution ordered in Admty., 2122A/12 is a necessary preparation for the plan referred to in Admty., 0110/30/8 to C. in C. S.A. only.
3. Regretted that owing to available numbers still being far below our commitments there is no possibility at present of adding to A/S forces at your disposal; in fact, it has been found necessary to reduce them by Admty 2219/19.
(V.C.N.S. 1510A/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM, LAVENDER, BERGAMOT.

Your 1809/20. Request corvettes be sailed so as to R/V with BIRMINGHAM at Northern end of sea R/V "Percival" at 1300 G.M.T./4. (R.A.S.A.D., 1529Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.) This will be done. (C. in C. S.A., 1407N/22).

CARNARVON CASTLE, ALCANTARA, Nightingale Island.

Admty 1721/20 and my 1642/8. CARNARVON CASTLE has developed engine defect which probably cannot be completed before 1st week in October.
Propose on completion CARNARVON CASTLE sails Tristan Da Cunha and Nightingale Island with party referred to in Admty 1721/20 arrive Z plus 4 days.
CARLISLE reported in 1937 that Nightingale Island was visited and landing place inspected from seaward. There appeared to be no suitable beach and landing can only be effected in calm weather on rocks.
Technical party would require one clear day on island. Probability of calm weather negligible, swell and wind less than force 3 in that area in October estimated at one day in 6. Suggest ALCANTARA is delayed accordingly and calls at Nightingale Island about Z plus 5 days to embark technical party thence proceeding to Cape. Z day being date of departure of CARNARVON CASTLE from Capetown. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1715B/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

/STANVAC.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic. - Contd.

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|---|---|
| STANVAC, suspicious vessel. | My 2309/19 and my 1259/21. STANVAC, Manila, first sightedidentical vessel at 1600/15 in 10° 04' S., 34° 58' W., course 199° speed 13 knots, distance 7 miles, which she closed to 5 miles, maintaining this distance until nightfall. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1921Z/21 to S.A.D.) |
| CLYDE. | Your 0910/18. Request CLYDE after leaving Canary Island may be instructed to proceed through position (a) 024° 00' N., 021° (?40) W. and (b) 011° (?30) N., 021° 40' W., thence to Freetown. Escort will be provided into Freetown if available. Request E.T.A. at position (a) may be signalled. (C. in C. S.A., 2031A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.) |
| Tristan Da Cunha. | Your 2041/20. It is intended that both ships should call. A.M.1721/20 and 2334/20 refer. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2241A/21 to C. in C. S.A.) |
| DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. | Left Freetown 21/9 to patrol in area 1 34 B and D. (C. in C. S.A., 2353N/21 to Admty). |

### Mediterranean.

| | |
|---|---|
| Alexandria Mines. | Alexandria M/Sweeping Summary week ending 13/9 blank. Week ending 20/9 2 raids, no M/laying. 3 Mines in Flying Boat Anchorage exploded as follows: 15/9 1 type D M blue by LL. 19/9 1 Type D probably by Fishing Boat followed immediately by Type 42. Former 2 laid 19/7, latter 7/6. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0021B/21 to Admty). |
| Taranto Italian Ships. | Your 1710B/20. V.A. Malta's 1606B/15 corrected hit 1816B/12 to read one LITTORIO class and two CAVOUR class battleships, and not two LITTORIO and one CAVOUR class at Taranto 12/9. (D.D.I.C., 1040A/21 to C.O. I.S. Alexandria). |

/S/M.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| S/M operations 18/9. | Congratulations to 10th Sub., Flot., on important successes achieved on morning of 18/9, UPHOLDER on so brilliantly taking advantage of her opportunities; URSULA on her fine success, and to all 4 submarines on co-operation which resulted in the enemy being so heavily hit. (F.O.S., 1109A/21 to Capt. S.10). |
| UTMOST, UPRIGHT. | Ref. memorandum T.1. para 2 and 5 amend area W and V respectively to 038° 15' 015° 43' - 330° - (?40) - 40. UPRIGHT arrive east end of area V, P.M./25. (Capt. S.10 1213B/21 to UTMOST). |
| LISBOA (German) FRONSAC, ST. BRIEUX, (French). | Departures 20th LISBOA Genoa; FRONSAC, Sete; Arrival 20th ST. BRIEUX. (Barcelona, 1215/21 to M. of W.T.) |
| MAURO CROCE, (Italian) FRONSAC (French). | Arrivals 20th, MAURO CROCE, FRONSAC, (Barcelona, 1810/21 to M. of W.T.) |
| Libyan Convoys, forces to attack. | Your 1933/17 para 8.<br>1 To supply 4 Fleet destroyers would mean taking them from Commands in which destroyer situation is no less acute than it is in Mediterranean.<br>2. It is possible, however, to send you 4 Hunt Class for working with the two cruisers. It would not however be possible to fit them with torpedo tubes.<br>3. Request your early remarks.<br>(1st S.L. 2242A/21 to C. in C. Med). |
| Enemy Convoy. | About 1800B/23 a small escorted convoy should reach position 032° 07' 020° 04' from Westward. (Capt. S.1., 2347B/21 to THRASHER). |

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SYGNA. Norwegian, overdue, arrived Colombo on 16/9, eight days late.
(D.S., 748,22/9.)

Finnish Ships. A.M.1553/22/6 re Finnish ships.
Sec. of State telegram dated 22/8 to Governor, Ceylon, gives certain conditions in which Finnish ships may be permitted to proceed. Is this information being promulgated by Admiralty?
(C. in C.E.I., 0442Z/21 to Admty.)

Persia. Re development of port capacities.
(W.O., 0500/21 to C. in C. India.)

GRANIKOS. Overdue GRANIKOS left Aden 5th for Colombo.
(S.O.I., Colombo, 0544Z/21, to Admty., etc.)
Arrived Calcutta, see 0752/23.

REWAK intercepted. French Launch REWAK carrying petrol Djibouti to Obok intercepted and taken to Zeilah where launch is being retained in prize. Two French naval officers and four ratings from launch landed near Obok.
(C. in C.E.I., 0714Z/21, to Admty.)

TAI KOO. (mined 17/9.) N.O.i/c Massawa's 1658/17.
If position of TAI KOO sinking as given is correct she was within 100-fathom line and not following course ordered. Probable an Italian minefield still exists in this area and that TAI KOO struck a moored mine. Inquiry has been ordered.
(C. in C.E.I., 0744Z/21 to Admty.)

Bombay to Basra and Aden Convoys, policy. 1. ARMINDIA's requirements for transport 73,000 troops during next 3 months will necessitate Bombay to Basra convoys being run at (?six) day intervals.
2. Escorts available will not admit of this programme without considerable delay and many of the ships now on this run are 16 and 18-knot vessels which are slowed down by escorts' speed.

3. Under.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bombay to Basra and Aden Convoys, policy. (Contd.)

3. Under existing circumstances with covering force operating between Seychelles and Colombo it is not considered that danger to the Bombay-Basra convoy justifies these delays.
4. As long as present conditions prevail, proposed policy would be:-
(a) Basra ships to sail in unescorted convoys grouped to suit military requirements.
(b) An occasional such convoy to be given close escort, otherwise close cover to be provided whenever possible.
Bombay Aden Convoy.
5. Number of single ships coming under category requiring (?escort) is increasing particularly from Middle East and from Bombay to Far East. Some of these are 18 (?and) 21-knot ships which sometimes have to await return of (?an) escort and are then slowed down to (?14) knots by her maximum speed.
6. The speed up turn round and extra covering forces released by allowing these fast ships to go unescorted outweighs the value of close escort.
7. Recommended that ships of 15 knots and over on Aden-Bombay-Ceylon run should proceed unescorted, routed well north in Arabian sea and close along Indian Coast, and that this policy should be adopted also and be maintained as long as there are no known raiders in this part of Indian Ocean.
8. Need for secrecy if such policies are to be adopted is fully realised and it is not the intention that they should be promulgated. To achieve this end normal embarkation forecast would be signalled to me but practice of asking for escort would be stopped.
9. India has not been consulted.
(C. in C.E.I., 1424Z/21, Amended 1038Z/22, to Admty.) Approved with 1 exception.
(1st. S.L., 2345A/22.)

KANIMBLA. MANOORA, exchange.

A.C.N.B'S 0205/20. Have you any objection?
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2243A/21, to C. in C.E.I.)

Red Sea.

Reply to C. in C.Med., 1615/15 re inclusion in Med. Command.
(C. in C.E.I., 0554Z/21 to C. in C. Med.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

WINDSOR CASTLE.

Due Bombay 20/9. Requires extensive repairs estimated to take two months consequent upon collision.
2. F.O.C.R.I.N., has reported that as Bombay is working to full capacity, repairs cannot be undertaken there.
3. Request report whether you can accept her at Singapore.
(D.S.T., 0129A/21, to A.S., Singapore.)

### America & West Indies.

ASTURIAS.

My 1142R/4 and C. in C.A. and W.I., 1832Q/6. ASTURIAS sails for Bermuda p.m./6, arriving a.m./8. Completes practices and fuelling p.m./12.
(B.A.R.M., 0956R/21, to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

FORTH.

B.A.R.M's 1206R/17. Intend FORTH to leave Halifax p.m./22 to arrive Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at 2200S/23. Request you will arrange programme for American Ports so that if practicable FORTH arrives at Halifax not later than p.m.1/10.
(R.A.3, 1137P/21, to B.A.D.)

RECCA (ex-Italian.)

Cuban decree incorporates S.S.RECCA in Cuban Navy. No information as yet how will be employed. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1249R/21 to Admty., etc.) RECCA renamed LIBERTAD. Had been refuging at Havana since Italy entered the war and was seized by Cuban authorities on 1/4/41 when outbreak of sabotage occurred in Italian ships in American waters.
(D.S.748,22/9.)

M.M.S.122 damaged.

M.M.S.122 returned from W.S.B.45 heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F., 1430Z/21 to Admty.)

/U.S.Patrols...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.9.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Patrols. My 1736/20, position of CONCORD at noon G.C.T. 21st, 4 05 S., 91 20 thence patrolling towards 17 35 S., 98 30 arriving there 27/9 return Balboa 3/10 position of TRENTON beginning 21st, 1 20 S., 91 09, patrol towards 6 19 S., 84 07 W., return Balboa 24th. Task Force consisting of the ERIE and two Destroyers patrolling on rectangle Cocos Island to vicinity of Wreck Bay to point 02 20 S., 87 - 50 W., to a point 03 - 40 N., 84 - 15 W., beginning 21/9.
(O.P.N.A.V. 1522/21.)

KARMEN. Your 1727/7 not to Admiralty. Yugo-Slav KARMEN has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1543Z/21, to S.O.I. Kingston.)

Suspicious Vessels, 7/9, 13/9. Master ORDUNA reports 0610 G.M.T./7, position 21.32 S., 06.19 W., 2 suspicious vessels bearing 240° 6', steering 330°. ORDUNA turned bringing vessels astern and observed 3rd vessel well down signalling 1st. pair. In 15 minutes all vessels vanished, so must have turned.
(Description) Master PORT HUNTER reports 1930 G.M.T./13 position 00. 12(?) S., 39.01 W., Suspicious vessel. (Description.)
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1600Q/21, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

? TAMESIS. St. Lucia reports ST.USK sighted 1600/15 ship similar to TAMESIS in 009° 36' N., 055°56' W. Course 304° distance 8 miles speed 11 knots. No suspicious actions.
(S.O.I., Kingston, 1636R/21 to Admty., etc.)

DURAZZO (German.) From: Puerto Cabello, Ven., 21st., DURAZZO (?arrived.) (Puerto Cabello, 1700/21 to M. of W.T.) W.R.Note. Telegram as received by M. of W.T.did not say whether ship had arrived or departed, but inference is, according to M. of W.T, that the ship has arrived.

CAP DES PALMES, CHEVREUIL. A.T.1711A/18. Left Jamaica on 20/9. Former carries British N.L.O., and Commandant La Porte of High Commissioner's staff. Please inform High Commissioner.
(D.O.D.(F) 1814A/21 to LE TRIOMPHANT.)

/ODERIN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.9.1941.
Sunday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies.Contd.

ODERIN collision 25/8.

H.M.C.S. GALT reports collision with M.M.S. ODERIN in convoy W.S.C.41 on 25/8. Also reports action of ODERIN in this convoy was very unsatisfactory. Master refused to obey orders, would not form up with this convoy as instructed, and eventually proceeded individually to Iceland in company with S.S.SANTA CONCEPTA.
(C.C.N.F., 1847Z/21, to Admty.)

Task Groups.

Task groups 2.5 and 2.7 are returning to Bermuda. 2. All Task Groups in area 2 are being re-organised, major part to operate in the north. 3. A/C Carrier LONG ISLAND and one cruiser only are expected to operate from Bermuda.
(D.O.D.(F)1938A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

TRENTON CONCORD.

U.S.S.TRENTON and U.S.S.CONCORD left Balboa for patrol 18/9. Commander S.E. Pacific force is on board TRENTON.
(D.O.D.(F)1952A/21 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

### Australia.

KAIKOURA.

Have you any news of KAIKOURA from Balboa due 14/9?
(D.T.D.1744A/21 to N.C.S.O., Sydney N.S.W.)
(See America & West Indies, 1507/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.9.1941.
Sunday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

| | |
|---|---|
| O.G.74<br>BALTALLINN,<br>EMPIRE MOAT. | O.G.74 attacked, BALTALLINN and EMPIRE MOAT torpedoed in approx. 048° 10' N., 022° 20' W., at 2225A/20. Weather.<br>(DEPTFORD, 0001Z/21 to Admty etc).<br>Both British, BALTALLINN, 1303 tons, Preston to Gibraltar with Govt. stores; EMPIRE MOAT, 2922 tons, in ballast London to Gibraltar<br>(D.S., 747 21/9).<br>My 2055A/20 (2205/20?) Have searched for 5 hours without result. DEPTFORD proceeded to rejoin convoy at 2100A/20. ARBUTUS is searching towards convoy now. WITCH and BLANKNEY have not enough fuel and must return now course 052° 14 knots.<br>(WITCH, 0115A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)<br>My 0001Z/21. Possible number U-boat attacking, one. Crew EMPIRE MOAT rescued, 7 missing from BALTALLINN. Both ships afloat when last seen. Salvage considered unlikely.<br>(DEPTFORD, 0417Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)<br>WALMER CASTLE, rescue vessel, bombed, sunk. (see Enemy air Operations). Following absent from convoy since last night, LISSA, RUNA, RHINELAND and (KMWK) (signal letters undecypherable in W.R.) DEPTFORD proceeding best speed direct Gibraltar unless orders to contrary received. Weather. (DEPTFORD, 1750A/21 to Admty etc).<br>Your 1750A/21. Remain with convoy. Situation will be reviewed when ROCKINGHAM joins.<br>(C. in C. W.A., 2204A/21 to DEPTFORD).<br>Well done. (C. in C. W.A., 2206A/21 to EMPIRE AUDACITY, Repeated All Escorts O.G.74). |
| PEGASUS<br>(derelict 17<br>/9). | Request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE to arrive Londonderry daylight tomorrow Monday.<br>(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1332A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown) Cancelled, see 15555A/21.<br>Request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE escorted by ST. CATHAN, to assistance of S.S. PEGASUS reported derelict in 54° 54' N., 30° 32' W., at 0845/17. Aircraft assisting search. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1347A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry amended 1507A/21) Cancelled, see 1759A/21.<br>PEGASUS, Greek, 5762 tons was seen abandoned about 700 miles W. of Achill Head on 16/9. Is believed to have been torpedoed. NORTHERN DAWN has picked up 13 survivors. (D.S.747, 21/9).<br>Cancel my 1332A/21. ZWARTE ZEE to revert to normal notice for steam. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1555A/21 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).<br>F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1332A/21. Intend to sail ZWARTE ZEE at 2350/21 E.T.A. 0500/22.(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1724A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Cancelled, see 1917A/21. |

/Request.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.9.1941.
Sunday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

PEGASUS (derelict 17/9) Contd.

Request you will send Tug PRUDENT with one A/S escort from local forces to salvage Greek ship PEGASUS torpedoed and derelict in 54° 54' N., 30° 32' W., at 0845A/17. She has important stores on board and should be towed to St. Johns. (C. in C. W.A., 1748A/21 to C.C.N.F.) Cancelled see 2301A/21.
Cancel my 1347/21 and 1507A/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1759A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Your 1748A/21. BRANDON and PRUDENT are being sent. (C.C.N.F., 1819Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
Cancelled (C.C.N.F., 2316Z/21).
Cancel my 1724A/21. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1917A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Cancel my 1748A/21. (C. in C. W.A., 2301A/21 to C.C.N.F.)

### Submarines Reported.

0726Z. Following bearings of U-boat obtained at 0726Z/21. T.O.O. 0807/21. (41 Groups) (D.D.I.C., 0920A/21 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

1915 G.M.T. /20. S/M on surface, 37° 42' N., 25° 02' W., 1915 G.M.T./20 steering N.E. A.1. Capt. of Port. (N.O.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1009/21 to S.O.(I) Gib). (F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/21 to N.A. Stn).

Your 1226A/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Detail one Corvette to steer towards 055° 30' N., 009° 30' W. Aircraft are searching this area till dusk. At 2000A/21 Corvette detailed is to return to Londonderry if nothing has been sighted from the air.
(C. in C. W.A., 1356A/21 to ALISMA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1420A/21).

1712Z. Convoy H.G.73 was probably reported by an Italian U-boat at 1712Z/21. (D.D.I.C. 1852A/21 to VIMY, WILD SWAN, BEGONIA, JASMINE).
Italian U-boat made enemy sighting report of H.G. 73 at 1811A/21. This has been repeated to other U-boats probably about 60 miles N. to N.E. of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A., 1916A/21 to Escort of H.G.73).

/1454Z.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.9.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. - Contd.

1454Z. Following bearings at 1454Z/21 indicates a U-boat to westwards of Canary Is. possibly within 250' of 28° N., 21° W., T.O.O. 1604. 22 groups. 4 letter code. (D.D.I.C. 1930A/21 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A., GORLESTON, BIDEFORD).

2010Z. Immediate Submarine Warning.
An enemy U-boat made a first sighting report at 2010Z/21 of a convoy of important unit, probably O.G.74 or O.S.6. (D.D.I.C., 2144A/21 to ROCKINGHAM, DEPTFORD, ARBUTUS, WELLINGTON, STORK, JASMINE).

2010. At 2010 G.M.T. German S/M bearing 302° made sighting report. Class 2.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2226A/21 to N.A. Stn).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine in position 47.40 N., 9.09 W. Periscope only sighted and when first sighted on course 080°. (A/C P., 0845/21 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 47.44 N., 9.05 W. Enemy S/M previously reported sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Course and speed 125° 6 knots. (A/C T., 1230/21 to 19 Group)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, and estimate no hits. (A/C T., 1230/21 to 19 Group).
One U-boat in 047° 44' N., 009° 05' W., course 125° attacked by aircraft and dived at 1230/21 Possibly the same U-boat was sighted in 047° 40' N., 009° 09' W., course 80° at 0845/21. (F.O.S., 1406A/21 to SEALION).

By VIMY. Have damaged S/M in 37° 46' N., 19° 18' W., submarine has dived am searching.
(VIMY, 2115A/21, 00083/22 to Gibraltar W/T).
My 2115A/21, attacked S/M contact 14 charge pattern followed by 5 charge pattern, doppler first attack only. Lost contact 500 and 700 yards respectively. Intend to continue search for 24 hours further (?14) pattern charge followed by 3 unidentified underwater explosions one minute later. (VIMY, 2310A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Home Commands.

**S/M's in northern waters.**

It is intended that British submarines shall continue to operate in Northern Waters throughout the winter, provided ice-free bases remain available in Northern Russia.

A Russian CHUKA class S/M returned today from patrol off Tana Fiord and reports having sunk a 4,000 ton westbound unescorted loaded merchant vessel on 12/9.

### British Air Operations.

A 5,000 ton merchant vessel was hit off Alsbren Light at 1340.

### Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S.1. was attacked today at 1921 in 53° 50' N. 0° 25' E. S.S. VECHSTROOM, on her way to join the convoy was bombed and sunk.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

## SITUATION REPORT.

### Mining.

Operations. S.N.230. — WELSHMAN laid a deep minefield last night north west of the Butt of Lewis.

JU. — MANXMAN laid mines last night off the French coast.

P.W. 19. N.L. 27. — 2 M.T.B's from Harwich and M.L's from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast.

The Clyde was opened at 2212A without restriction. (see 15/9).

Mining by enemy aircraft apparently took place in the Humber and Yarmouth Cromer area last night.

Harwich. — Harwich was closed on account of minelaying from 0501A to 1044A. Until further orders the port will be closed daily until the morning sweep of the approaches has been completed.

Thames Estuary. — There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night; mines are reported as having fallen and heavy explosions were heard.

M.L. 144 was sunk by a floating mine while on patrol off Dungeness at 2020 today.

A mine was detonated today off Belfast Lough.

### Mediterranean.

Libya and Western Desert. — 4 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi last night. Bursts were reported on ships and the quays and Italian Mole.

Attack on Leros. — Blenheims from Cyprus to-day attacked the floating dock and other targets at Port Laki, Leros. Visual R/C subsequently reported the dock slightly damaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

HOHENFELS (scuttled at Bandar Gulf 25/8/41) was refloated today by KANIMBLA and successfully beached on an even keel.

America and West Indies.

The Admiralty consider that PRINCE DAVID's report of 27/8, USS WASI's of 28/8 and the unknown British merchant vessels report of a ship of FELS class 1,200 miles E.S.E. of Trinidad on 31/8, together with ROBIN HOOD's reports of 7/9 and 9/9 and STANVAC's reports of 14/9 and 15/9 might well refer to the same vessel. There have been previous indications that enemy surface vessels are used for reporting merchant ships to U-boats or surface warships, and it seems possible that this ship is so employed, keeping clear of enemy area of S/M activity whilst reporting all shipping sighted.

In case she moves south DEVONSHIRE and EAGLE are searching further to the Southward, and particularly in the calm refuelling area S.E. of Trinidada Island.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on S.L.87.

Convoy S.L. 87 was attacked at about 0228Z today in 25° 24' N. 23° 47' W. SILVERBELLE was torpedoed.
The convoy was attacked again about 2200Z in 27° 32' N. 24° 26' W. and EDWARD BLYDEN and NICETO DE LARRINAGA was torpedoed and sunk.

Convoy S.C.44.

CHESTERFIELD reported at 1750 Z today that in addition to four ships in S.C. 44 torpedoed on 20/9 CETUS, CROMARTY, M.M/S MARTICOT and yacht UNITAS are missing.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

SHEFFIELD. From correspondence received from SHEFFIELD it is evident C.O. considers his ship forms part of 18th C.S. Request confirmation that this is so. (C.S.18., 1543/22 to Adty.)

ATHENE. ATHENE is due to complete as an aircraft transport on the Clyde on 27/9 ex trials. Trials are expected to finish on 1/10.
2. It is intended that ATHENE should in the first place be employed as an aircraft transport for conveying naval aircraft and spare engines to Gibraltar and Freetown. The return voyage could be used for collecting aircraft requiring overhaul in U.K.
3. C. in C. W.A. will operate ATHENE and, subject to his concurrence, it is proposed she should be administered by F.O.I.C. Greenock. (A.C.N.S.H. 1715A/22).

British S/M's in Northern Waters. It is intended that British submarines shall continue to operate in Northern waters throughout the winter provided ice-free bases remain available in Northern Russia.
2. The proposals contained in F.O. (S) 1211A/20 are generally concurred in. (V.C.N.S. 1828A/22 to Ad. Miles).

### Movements.

THORN. Sailed THORN escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance with S.3's 1433A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0958A/22)

SEAWOLF. S.5's 1101A/20. SEAWOLF sailed 1630. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1633A/22).

CANTON.
CATHAY. Following forecast of movements of A.M.C's corrected to 22/9. CANTON leaves Clyde about 7/10 for Freetown. CATHAY leaves Clyde for U.S.A. via Halifax about 30/9. (S.O.W.P. 1646A/22).

LANCASTER. Sailed to Port ZA. E.T.A. 0600/23. (R.A.D. 1900A/22 to R.A.M.)

H.28. My 1019A/21. Sailed. (S.7. 2002A/22).

/C. in C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.9.1941. Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements-Contd.

**C. in C.H.F.** Intend to proceed in KING GEORGE V, with VICTORIOUS SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, ESKIMO and ASHANTI passing Hoxa boom at 1800A/23 to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 45' N. 008° 00' W. and thence direct to Reykjanes passage. E.T.A. 0930A/25 A.C.I.C. acknowledge. (C. in C. H.F. 2207A/22)

### Operations.

**East Coast Patrols.** Patrol tonight Monday. (1) Two M.G.B's in the vicinity of 61B Buoy.(2) Two M.GB's in vicinity South Leman Buoy. (3) Three M.L's in the vicinity R.N.W.E. 52 18.(4) One M.G.B. operation Q.E. with A.P. patrolling F.Y. (C. in C. Nore 1131A/22 and 1201A/22).

**A/S Sweep off Hebrides.** Sailed LAMERTON and BADSWORTH for Liverpool carrying out A/S sweep to Westward of Hebrides on passage. E.T.A. Bar L.V. 0830/24. (R.A.D. 1730A/22).

**Operation E.J.** Communications. (C. in C. H.F. 1808A/22 to VICTORIOUS, KING GEORGE V, AURORA, PENELOPE, R.A. (D)(and for destroyers).

### British Air Activity.

**Patrols.** P.R.U. of Stavanger, Kristiansand, Horten now in operation. "Hornli" will be flown P.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/22).

### Enemy Air Activity.

**Convoy probably sighted.** It is probable that either convoy H.G. 73 or W.S.11X was sighted by F.W. aircraft at 1315. (D.D.I.C. 1609A/22).

**Convoy F.S. attacked.** Even numbered F.S. convoy S. of Tyne being attacked by enemy aircraft in 53° 50' N. 0° 25' E. (WESTMINSTER 1921/22).

**S.S. VECHSTROOM.** Departure H.M. Tug SABINE to assist at 2025. (F.O. Humber 2235A/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.9.1941. Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

**Harwich.** Port of Harwich closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0501A/22). Port of Harwich now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044A/22) Until further orders the port of Harwich will be closed each day until morning sweep of Approaches has been completed at approx 1000. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1710A/22).

**N.L.24.** Intend to carry out operation N.L. 24 to-night Monday from 51° 01' 48" N. 01° 56' 12" E. (V.A. Dover 1014A/22).

**MANXMAN. WELSHMAN.** On return to Port Z.A. MANXMAN may be regarded as available for operations in the East Coast Barrage in company with WELSHMAN, being considered as at 48 hours notice for other service. (A.C.N.S.H. 1125A/22 to R.A.M.)

**Thames Estuary.** 9 S.A. Mines detonated on 20/9 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1145/22). During night 21/22 there was considerable enemy activity over the Thames Estuary. Between 2000 and 2320 a number of hostile plots were obtained, chiefly in Black Deep and Swin areas. Foreness reported mines as having fallen in both these areas. Only one plane actually seen and fired at. Heavy unlocated explosions were heard at 2143 and 2315. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1453/22).

**Belfast.** At 1207A/22 one magnetic Mine detonated 206°, 5.5 cables from Pile Lt., Belfast Lough. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1540A/22).

**Rosyth.** Additional search of suspected area for moored mines being carried out p.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1625/22 to Admty.)

**Clyde.** My 1756/15. River Clyde now open to traffic without restriction. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2212A/22).

**M.L. 144 sunk.** M.L. 144, when on patrol off Dungeness with M.L. 143, struck a floating mine at 2020 today Vessel broke in two. Survivors picked up by M.L. 132. Four ratings missing, 3 seriously injured. (V.A. Dover 2330A/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.9.1941.
Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. — Latest known positions. (D.D.I.C. 1031A/22)

Warships off Helsingborg. — Observed at Helsingborg 1230 hours, one German cruiser and one transport going north. (British Consul, Goteborg 1300/22 to Adty.)
Note By N.I.D. 10:- In view of recent similar reports which have proved inaccurate from this source, no reliance can be placed on this report.

M/V off Stadtland. — One Merchant Ship of 2,500 tons sighted by A/C in 061° 46' N. 004° 49' E. at 1410, course 180°, speed 7 knots. (F.O.S. 1527A/22 to MINERVE).

### Technical.

Camouflage of ESKIMO. — Two separate aircraft report sighting 7 destroyers at about 1730/17 and state that rear destroyer of port column was very well camouflaged and almost invisible at any angle at 10 mile range and height of 1500 ft. Remaining destroyers clearly visible. (C. in C. W.A. 1904A/22 to R.A.D.)
Your 1904A/22. The destroyer in question was ESKIMO camouflaged on Peter Scott's scheme of white with basic colour duck egg green. BEDOUIN was also present and camouflaged on same scheme but basic colour sky blue.(R.A.D. 2153/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Use of Smoke Screens. — Adty. 1706/23/1 and my 1117/8/2. Can information now be given together with any later experience which would be applicable for the fleet or the base. (C. in C. H.F. 2156A/22 to Adty.).

### Casualties and Defects.

MARCONI. (Collision on 20/9). — Survey of MARCONI indicates salvage only possible with aid of lifting craft which it is understood are not available. Intend proceeding with salvage of guns. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1034A/22).

HELMOND. — (British) In F.S.1, arrived Tees Bay. Was in collision with unknown vessel in convoy at 0130/22. Only superstructure damaged. (N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough 1410/22);

/CITY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.9.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

CITY OF DURBAN. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. London 1430/22).

PONTFIELD (Mined 15/9) Arrival PONTFIELD Tugs STALWART, SABINE, KROOMAN, PRIZEMAN, PINKY and Salvage Vessel GALLEONS REACH assisting, at 1950. (F.O. Number 1556A/22).

Shipping and Convoys.

W/T. A.M. 1954/7/7 add to para 11.
If a ship is incapable of receiving or making a wireless message either through lack of equipment or operators this fact is to be indicated by use of the following phrases:
(a) "No wireless". or (b) "No wireless (Transmitting"
(D.T.D. 1113A/22 to C⁵ in C.).

Outward Convoys. Following are sailing dates of outward bound Convoys from Liverpool:-
O.N. 21 (S) 28/9, O.N. 22 2/10, O.S.8 3/10,
O.N. 23 (S) 4/10, O.N. 24 8/10, O.N.25 10/10,
(C. in C. W.A. 1138A/22 to F.O.I.C's etc.)

H.G.72. As considerable difficulty was experienced by the air escort in locating H.G. 72 on 13/9 and 14/9, request route followed by the convoy may be signalled. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1216/22 to Adty.)

ANDRE THOME. Your 1158A/22 to C. in C. Nore. In view of existing mining situation it is considered inadvisable to sail ANDRE THOME in F.S.1 for London with D/G out of action. Vessel should be sailed with trawler escort by inshore route to Harwich where D/G repairs should be effected and thence sailed to London. (C. in C. Nore, 1802A/22 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Your 1802A/22, temporary D.G. generator arrived from Harwich, expect vessel complete 14/10.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1846A/22).
Your 1802A/22 and my 1846A/22. D.G. Generator will be fitted at Yarmouth and report will be made when vessel is ready to sail.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2225A/22 to C. in C. Nore).

/O.N. 16.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.9.1941. Monday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

O.N.16. To keep clear of H.X. 150, O.N. 16 is to keep 20 miles to port of route ordered during daylight 23rd. (C. in C. W.A., 1833A/22 to Escorts of O.N. 16.)

F.A. and F.S. Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1836A/22) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 150. Request U.S.A. escort may be arranged for ships in H.X. 150 proceeding Iceland (C). (C. in C. W.A., 2308A/22 to Admty.) Reply: 1243/23.

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic

TRUANT — Your 0906A/21. My P. C. and S. are 041° 30' N., 040° 00' W. 100° 11. Weather.
(TRUANT, 0930Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE — My 0910A/18, Departure CLYDE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1002A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

GEORG GEORGETTE — Adjust course so as to pass 5 miles south of Cape St. Vincent then through 36° 40' N., 07° 00' W. thence to Gibraltar keeping to north side of Straits. Fuel permitting, motor launches and escorts are not to be between 7° W. and Gibraltar during dark hours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1940A/22 to GEORG GEORGETTE)

M.T.Ships — As neither F.O.C. 18th C.S. nor I had opportunity to obtain from M.T. ships details of their experiences, suggest V.A.Malta be asked to furnish list based on information at his disposal. F.O.C.N.A. has furnished list based on return voyage of DURHAM.
(S.O.Force H., 2030A/22 to Admty.)

### South Atlantic

Convoy conjestion Freetown. — Convoy O.S. 4. arrived 14/9 W.S. 11 fast 13/9, W.S. 11 slow 15/9, the latter 2 were originally expected to arrive 14/9. Important that if possible O.S. and W.S. convoys shall arrive at least 4 days apart as otherwise the watering and fuelling of so many ships at the same time, causes delay.
(C. in C. S.A., 0031N/22 to Admty.)

French Ships for Indo-China. — My 1043/15. Same source reports ships scheduled to leave 10/10, and will be escorted by escort accompanying convoy 25/9. (My 1123/18 refers)
(S.O.I., Capetown, 1023B/22 to Admty.)

/Suspicious.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### South Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Suspicious Ship. | (?Large) cargo vessel half laden closely resembling ATLANTIS (No. 16) reported by U.S.A. ship ROBIN HOOD in 010° 04' S., 026° 58' W. at 1930Z/9. (Description)<br>(C. in C. S.A. 1313N/22 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, Force F., R.A.S.A.D.) |
| BIRMINGHAM Corvettes. | Your 1529/21. This will be done.<br>(C. in C. S.A. 1407N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.) |
| S.L. Convoys fuelling. | Escorts approaching S.L. convoys sailing from Bathurst are to report to C. in C. S.A. in good time before sailing.<br>(a) If it will be necessary to fuel at Ponta Delgada on the homeward passage.<br>(b) Quantity of oil required.<br>(c) Anticipated date on which fuelling will take place.<br>Necessary arrangements will then be made by C. in C., S.A. and it should be unnecessary for the convoy escort to break W/T silence whilst on passage for this purpose. This will be included in S.A.C.I's.<br>(C. in C. S.A., 1841N/22 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.) |
| KOS 10<br>KOS 11 | My 1905A/4, no reply yet received. Question of manning KOS 10 and KOS 11 from local resources should be considered. Vessels are urgently required on Mediterranean Station.<br>(D.M.S. 1858A/22 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.) |

### Mediterranean

| | |
|---|---|
| RADINA (Bulgarian) | Press message for Sofia dated 22/9 states RADINA, 4159 tons, sank after striking a mine off Burgas on 19/9. 4 of the crew killed.<br>(D.S., 749, 23/9.) |

/TORBAY.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| TORBAY<br>TALISMAN | Return to Alexandria, leave patrol p.m./23 to arrive Sanctuary 0530B/27 pass North of Naxos, East Stampalia and through the Scarpanto Channel to 032° 20' 029° 36' thence direct.<br>TALISMAN expects to pass through Kaso Straits p.m./22 thence East and North Anaphi then to Westward to pass between Ananes and Melos to arrive your area 24th.<br>(Capt. S. 1., 0037B/22 to TORBAY) |
| THRASHER | You were sighted and reported off Benghazi at 0630 today 22nd.<br>(Capt. S. 1. 1007B/22 to THRASHER) |
| UTMOST | My 1213B/21. Area V is S. of 038° 40' between bearing 330° from 038° 00' 014° 20' and Scilla. Reference advise patrol in area W., for 000° from Scilla read 020°.<br>(Capt. S. 10., 1020B/22 to UTMOST) |
| Benghazi bombed. | Night 20/21. 4 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting at base of Central Mole.<br>(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1121/22) |
| Enemy Convoy. | My 2347B/21. Convoy now due position given at 0500B/23 passing through 255° 30 miles from there at 0200B/23 on course 105°. Another small escorted convoy arriving 032° 05' 020° 05' 0545B/25 using 311° swept channel approaching that from North, 9 to 10 knots.<br>(S. 1. 1141B/22 to THRASHER) |
| Situation Reports. | Cancel my 1823B/16 (N.T. in W.D.) My 0047/15/4. Intend to discontinue daily situation reports and make them twice weekly in future. Additional reports will be made when situation requires them.<br>(C. in C. Med., 1203B/22 to Admty.) |
| Concerted operation by 4 S/M's 18/9. | V.A. Malta 1421B/20. In view of important results achieved by 10th S.F., already admitted by the Italians, it appears desirable to publish communique of sinking of these troopships. Presume you will issue suitable communique. It appears important to emphasize that result was (?achieved) in course of normal patrol operation<br>(C. in C. Med., 1210B/22 to Admty.) |

/MAURO CROCE.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

MAURO CROCE
ST. BRIEUC
COETLOGON

Departure 21st. MAURO CROCE, Italian, Genoa; ST BRIEUC, French, Sche; arrival 21st. COETLOGON, French.
(Barcelona, 1301/22)

TRUSTY
SOKOL
URGE
UPRIGHT
UTMOST
UPHOLDER

Proceed direct from last position given to establish patrol in vicinity of following: TRUSTY 038° 33' 012° 44 and SOKOL 038° 18' 012° 44' in area S.South of 038° 40' between bearing 330° from Cape Vito and Cape Gallo. TRUSTY to keep North and SOKOL South of 038° 25' in this area. URGE operating in area T. eastward 330° from Gallo. UPRIGHT Eastward from same bearing from 038° 00' 014° 20' both South of 038° 40', and UTMOST North of Messina. UPHOLDER proceed N.E. from 038° 00' 011° 40' about 2030B/24 to operate in area R., South of 038° 40' between bearings 330° from Marritimo and Vito. SOKOL is not to operate Eastward of 013° 15' during nights 30/9 to 4/10 inclusive. Ref. B.S. para 19 condition A to be in force from 0001B/25. Submarines encountered at night are not to be attacked. You will be recalled by signal and kept informed of movements of other submarines.
(Capt. S. 10, 1335B/22 to TRUSTY, SOKOL)

7th C.S.

Leaves Alexandria 1900B/22, proceeding towards Tobruk. Informed of your route.
(Capt. S. 1. 1605B/22 to PERSEUS.)

Bulgarian Warships.

Ref. F.O. Telegram No 2057 to Ankara, repeated to you. Should any warships be met wearing Bulgarian colours they are to be sunk.
(1st Lord. 1803A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

CANADA
COLOMBIE

Following known return route of Vichy hospital ship CANADA and troop ship COLOMBIE.
(C. in C. Med. 1842B/22 to Med. Fleet.)

German Ship.

German steamer arrived Mazarron 19/9 to load iron ore probably leaving 28/9.
(Cartagena, 1900/22 to M. of W.T.) Mazarron, S.W. of Cartagena. (D.S. 750)

/Liner....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

MAURO CROCE
ST. BRIEUC
COETLOGON

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(Barcelona, 1301/22)

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UPRIGHT
UTMOST
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(Capt. S. 10, 1335B/22 to TRUSTY, SOKOL)

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/Liner....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean-Contd.

**Liner Bombed Convoy attacked.**

Evening 21/9. 3 Blenheims despatched attack liner off Kuriat Island. Liner Northbound attacked at last light 1753 hours by 2 aircraft then escorted by six destroyers. 8 direct hits on liner with 250 lb bombs amidships, resulting in large clouds of steam. 1 waterline hit aft of amidships. Attack succeeded in stopping liner.
(H.Q., Malta, T.O.O. 1900/22)
Night 21/22. Five Swordfish sent attack same convoy. Liner not located. 1935 hours, torpedo attack made on convoy three M/V's tonnage unknown, five destroyers, 15 miles Lampion 170°
No hits seen. One M/V machine-gunned.
(H.Q., Malta, 1940/22)

**Suspected Minelayer.**

Believed that merchant ship converted to minelayer, possibly the BULGARIA, may have been operating in rectangle 20 miles N. and S. 60 miles E. and W., S.W. corner in 039° 50' 023° 50'. (Capt. S. 1. 2011B/22 to TORBAY, TALISMAN)

### East Indies

**BANDRA ex-Shah**

BANDRA now at (?Basra) has been ordered to sail for Bandar Abbas to arrive a.m./25, to embark ex-shah of Persia and party of approx. 25.
After embarking party BANDRA is to be sailed for Bombay direct. Final destination of Shah not yet known. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0532Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

**Bombay Convoys.**

Your 1424Z/21. Proposals approved with exception that under existing circumstances ships on Bombay Basra route may be sailed singly without escort in preference to sailing in unescorted convoys.
2. You should inform C. in C. India that under the existing circumstances Admty. have approved this policy. (1st S.L. 2345A/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Policy for Singapore Conference, Eastern Fleet.

Request you will discuss with U.S. Authorities following proposed instructions for guidance of Naval Planning Conference to be held at Singapore when ADB-2 has been generally approved.
(i) General principles for employment of forces of Associated Powers within Eastern Theatre have been agreed upon between respective Chiefs of Staff and are recorded in ADB-2.
(ii) U.S. and Dutch Forces available for disposition within Far East are recorded in ABC-1 and in ADB-1.
(iii) Minimum British forces which it may be assumed will be available for disposition within Eastern Theatre, and their probable diposition before the outbreak of hostilities, are:-
(a) Far East Area. 3.6-inch cruisers (old), 5 destroyers (old)
(b) Australian and New Zealand Stations. 2.8-inch cruisers, 5.6-inch cruisers (one old) 3 A.M.C's.
(c) Remainder of Eastern Theatre. 1 R Class Battleship, 1 carrier, 2.8-inch cruisers, 8 6-inch cruisers (two modern), 5 A.M.C's.
(iv) British forces forecast at (iii) (a) and (b) above correspond to those shown in ABC-1, Annex III, para 35, Col. II.
(v) In addition to existing British forces given in (iii) above, it is probable that following movements will take place:
(a) ROYAL SOVEREIGN, RAMILLIES and RESOLUTION to arrive on East Indies Station by late December.
(b) REPULSE to remain on East Indies Station until relieved by RENOWN about January, 1942.
(c) A reinforcement of one or two modern capital ships to arrive East Indies Station early in the New Year.
(vi) Remaining movements to bring Eastern Fleet up to the strength agreed upon in ABC-1 cannot yet be accurately forecast since this reinforcement must largely depend on when any destroyers can be made available.
(vii) Detailed plans and dispositions referred to in (viii) below should be sufficiently flexible to allow for the above intended movements. It will of course be clear that the shortage of destroyers at this stage will govern the use of heavy ships.
(viii) The objects of the Naval Planning Conference at Singapore are:-

/(a).....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### America & West Indies

Policy for Singapore Conference Eastern Fleet. -Contd.

(a) To consider initial dispositions and plans after the outbreak of war for Naval forces which can be made available for the Far Eastern Area and to draw up plans for their operation on the outbreak of hostilities.
(b) To examine the possible development of hostilities in the Eastern Theatre and to consider any redisposition of Naval forces, including the British reinforcements, which may become desirable.
2. Conference to be presided over by C. in C. China, and attended by naval representatives of C. in C. East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and Netherlands East Indies, and of C. in C., Asiatic Fleet. Although Conference will not consider his area, the presence of a representative of C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet, would be useful if U.S. Authorities would agree. (Hd. of M. approved 1st S.L. 0337A/22 to B.A.D. Washington.)

TULIP CLARKIA

Left Charleston, South Carolina due Bermuda 0300 G.M.T./25. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0500Z/22 to Admty.)

AURANIA

My 0932Q/20, intend to sail AURANIA from Bermuda p.m./23 arriving Halifax a.m./26. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1043Q/22 to F.O. 3 B.S.)

CANDYTUFT

Your 1711Z/20. Boston Yard cannot take ship. CANDYTUFT will be accepted at Navy Yard Brooklyn. Job. No S. 154.
(B.A.R.M., 1226R/22 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

FORTH

R.A. 3. 1137P/21. U.S. Authorities require that you should not arrive Portsmouth during dark hours. Pilot will meet you at buoy 2 K.R. at daylight/24.
On arrival Portsmouth N.H. you will receive instructions from Commander 1st U.S. Naval District, Boston, regarding programme for Boston, Newport, and New London. He has been asked to arrange you leave New London for Halifax not later p.m./29. (B.A.D. 1305R/1431R/22 to FORTH)

/BUXTON.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| BUXTON | My 1646R/19. BUXTON will leave Boston after dark on 25/9 R.A. 3rd B.S. pass to C.O.A.C. (B.A.R.M., 1328R/22 to Admty.) |
| S.C. Convoys | Reply to Admty. 2141/18. (C.N.S., Canada, 1487A/22 to Admty.) See also Gen. |
| KAIKOURA | Your 1744A/21. No knowledge or information here. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1507Z/22 to Admty.) |
| U.S. Forces | Your 1116Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur. U.S. Forces concerned informed. (Opnav, 1515/22 to Admty.) |
| Convoy Route for stragglers | Your 1821A/19, concur in continuance this practice for the time being until other arrangements can be made. (Opnav, 1535/22 to Admty.) |
| ROODE ZEE SANDBOY | Important that ROODE ZEE be released for duty with C. in C. East Indies as soon as possible. Request repairs to SANDBOY may be hastened and anticipated date of completion reported. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1627A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.) |
| DAUPHIN, BARRIE D/C outfits. | Information received from WESTERN ISLES that DAUPHIN and BARRIE arrived with only 50 light depth charges. 60 should be carried of which 40% should be heavy. Ships carried only 50 rounds of ammunition and were short of essential stores. WESTERN ISLES do not consider they can replenish ships coming from Canada to work up and suggest that all Corvettes in future be stored to maximum of operational requirements, or if this is impossible should call at Greenock to complete storing before proceeding to WESTERN ISLES. (C.C.C.S., 1630A/22 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa) Reply 1900/23. |
| GLADIOLUS CANDYTUFT | Reference arrangements for refit of GLADIOLUS at Charleston and CANDYTUFT at New York. Navy Dept. is anxious not to break existing policy of refitting two Corvettes at Charleston simultaneously and if operational requirements admit it is asked that another vessel should accompany GLADIOLUS to Charleston. See N.S.H.Q. 1711Z/20 and my 1226R/22. (B.A.R.M. 1636R/22 to Admty.) |

/Task Unit....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### America & West Indies-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Task Unit 4.1.3. | Following received from Navy Dept. Commander Destroyer Division 62 in BAINBRIDGE, with REUBEN, JAMES, TRUXTON, WINSLOW, OVERTON, are designated as Task Unit 4.1.3. and sailed for convoy S.C. [illegible] at 0900/20. (Spenavo, 1642 G.M.T./22 to Admty.) |
| U.S. Forces | Your 1603Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) concurs. U.S.Forces concerned informed. (Opnav, 1705/22 to Admty.) |
| SHAFTSESBURY M.M.S. 122 | SHAFTESBURY returned from WSC 45 2300Z/21. Steering gear carried away unable to repair at sea. M.M.S. 122 Admty Trawler returned from same convoy p.m./20 steering gear broken, quadrant jammed. One fuel oil tank leaking. Master brought her through narrows with rubber (?rudder) jammed solely with engine. (N.C.S.O., St. John's N.F. 1750Z/22 to Admty.) |
| S.O.S. heard Camperdown 17/9. | Your 0203/18. W.R. message asking for repetition of a position given in 1633/17 from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Heard by a ship in position 37.52 N., 52.38 W. strength 4. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1823Z/22 to Admty.) |
| H.X. 151. | My 2045/18 amended as follows. Ocean escorts for H.X. 151 DECATUR, LIVERMORE, KEARNEY, PLUNKET and GREER. (Opnav, 1950/22 to Admty. etc.) See 2123/23. |
| S.C. Convoy Escorts. | C.O.A.C. Halifax 0101Z/22 (N.T. in W.D.) Commencing with S.C. 47, 2 Corvettes from Sydney force are to accompany next 5 S.C. Convoys. These Corvettes are to relieve R.N. Corvettes in Newfoundland escorts. C.C. Newfoundland is to inform necessary authorities of dates on which R.N. Corvettes can be released. Continuation of Tobermory training is not to be interfered with. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2050Z/22 to C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.) |
| KARMEN | Cancel my 1543Z/21. KARMEN arrived Port Alfred 21/9. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2103Z/22) |

/LORRAINE.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### America & West Indies-Contd.

LORRAINE — Arrival 22nd Port Isabel French Tanker, LORRAINE. (Galveston, 2215Z/22 to D.N.I.) Put to sea again (see 1845/23)

U.S. Warships — U.S.S. WASHINGTON, EDISON, LUDLOW left Port au Prince, Haiti, 22/9 for destination which is not known. (D.O.D.F. 2222A/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BETH — C. in C. A.W.I. 2152Q/14. Has BETH arrived and been rerouted by you?
(D.T.D. 2223A/22 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad)
Your 2223A/22 BETH not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 1921Q/22 to Admty.)

Suspicious Vessel Reports. — Please pass following to C.N.O. from C.N.S.:-
PRINCE DAVID's report of 27/8, U.S.S. WASP's of 28/8, and the unknown British M/V's report of a vessel of the FELS Class 1,200 miles E.S.E. of Trinidad on 31/8, together with ROBIN HOOD's reports of 7/9 and 9/9 and STANVAC's reports of 14/9 and 15/9 might well, we consider, all be of the same vessel.
2. We have had previous indications that enemy surface vessels are used for reporting Merchant Ships to U-Boats or surface warships, and it seems possible that this ship is so employed, keeping clear of enemy area of S/M activity while reporting all shipping sighted.
3. We consider it likely that she will remain in the same area for a time, but in case she moves South DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE are searching more to the Southward, and particularly in the calm refuelling area S.E. of Trinidada Island.
(1st S.L., 2343A/22 to B.A.D.)

### Australia

BENDIGO — Departure Darwin 0715Z/22 BENDIGO for Singapore via Roti and Sape Straits E.T.A. 0740Z/30, entering China Station 010° 45' S., 124° 40' E. at 2030Z/23.
(A.C.N.B., 1537Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Ships Attacked

O.G. 74
RUNA

Position 045° 57' N., 022° 13' W. have picked up survivors of RUNA torpedoed 2150. MARIGOLD in company. Weather. (DEPTFORD, 0030A/22 to Admty.)
RUNA, British, 1575 tons, bound from Barry to Lisbon with coal. Torpedoed about 585 miles W.N.W. Cape Finisterre. (D.S. 748, 22/9.)
When ROCKINGHAM has joined, O.G. 74 proceed at best speed to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A., 1621A/22 to DEPTFORD)
Not met. Expect contact at daylight.
(ROCKINGHAM, 1901A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.L. 87.
SILVERBELLE
EDWARD BLYDEN
NICETO DE LARRINAGA

attacked
Convoy S.L. 87 in 025° 31' N., 023° 47' W. at 0240Z/22, 1 ship torpedoed.
(LULWORTH, 0300Z/22 to Admty.)
LULWORTH's 0300Z. Torpedoed ship SILVERBELLE still salvable if weather holds. Am attempting to tow to Azores. Remainder of escort with convoy.
White Very light sighted by GORLESTON in 026° 04' N., 023° 30' W. at 0115Z/ while passing my 2100Z/21, suggesting further U-Boat on convoy route. Can relief be expected (?for) (?towing).
GORLESTON keeping Gibraltar routine (N.A.Station, H/F), shifting to read Rugby "G.A." 500 kc's on loudspeaker.
(GORLESTON, 1111Z/22, to F.O.C.N.A.)
SILVERBELLE, British, 5302 tons, Durban to Liverpool with West African produce. (D.S. 749)
S.L. 87 attacked in 027° 32' N., 024° 26' W. 2 ships torpedoed. (LULWORTH, 2200/22 to Admty.)
(W.D. Note: EDWARD BLYDEN and NICETO DE LARRINAGA see 0801/23)
S.L. 87 attacked. Several ships torpedoed.
(BIDEFORD, 2200Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
If available send tug to meet SILVERBELLE in tow of GORLESTON. Estimated position at 0240Z/22 025° (? 31') N., 023° 41' W. steering towards Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 2216A/22 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
Your 1111Z/22. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada has been asked to send tug if available. (F.O.C.N.A. 2218A/22 to GORLESTON)
Your 1111Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A. Rejoin S.L. 87 forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 2342A/22 to GORLESTON)

S.C. 44
(Attacked 20/9.)

7 hours late at R/V. Please inform CHESTERFIELD I am short of fuel and am proceeding Reykjavik.
(HONEYSUCKLE, 1001Z/22 to BULLDOG)
S.C. 44 On relief by U.K. escort group and when well clear of convoy report names of ships not present. (C. in C. W.A., 1116A/22 to CHESTERFIELD, HONEYSUCKLE, MAYFLOWER) (Amended 1426A/22)

/Your 1116A/22....

MOST SECRET

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## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Ships Attacked

S.C. 44 (Attacked 20/9.) -Contd.

Your 1116A/22 and 1426A/22. Cmdre reports ships not present numbers 13, CETUS; 112, CROMARTY; 35, Motor Minesweeper MARTICOT. UNITAS check being made today. Torpedoed ships numbers 91, EMPIRE BURTON; 92, PINK STAR; 93, BARBRO; 102, T.J. WILLIAMS.
(CHESTERFIELD, 1759Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
U.S. Escort for S.C. 44. See America & West Indies, 1642/22.

### Submarines Reported

2245Z — An enemy U-Boat has made a first sighting report 2245Z/21 of a convoy or important unit, probably Convoy S.L. 87.
(D.D.I.C., 0032A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD)
My 0032A/22. Further sets of D/F bearings indicate that U-Boat may still be in contact with Convoy S.L. 87. Last transmission was at 0950Z/22
(D.D.I.C., 1135A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD)
My 1135A/22. Two further sets of D/F bearings indicate that U-Boat may still be in contact with Convoy S.L. 87. Last transmission was at 1501Z/22. (D.D.I.C. 1703A/22 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD.)

0100C
0300C — By D/F U-Boats in positions (1) at 0100C/22 070° 02' N., 037° 10' E. (2) at 0300C/22 068° 19' N. 040° 06' E. Admty. pass to ELECTRA, LONDON.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0941C/22 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1437A/22.)

1615/21 — Unidentified submarine sighted 1 mile off shore Vianna Do Castelo 1615/21.
(R.O.Oporto, 1516/22 to S.O.I. Gib.)

0010 — S/M reported by H.M.D. ROMANY ROSE vicinity of T. 1. buoy, course S.E. about 8 knots at 0010/22. Interrogation of skipper shows evidence inconclusive. No evidence that object dived. Report graded C.4. Additional search of suspected area for moored mines is being carried out p.m. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1625/22 to Admty.)

/1741A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1941.
Monday

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

### Submarines Reported-Contd.

1741A — Intercepted signal indicates an Italian U-Boat is probably shadowing H.G. 73. (F.O.C.N.A., 1741A/22 to Escorts H.G. 73.)

1710A — 2 U-Boats reported by A/C in 36° 05' N., 16° 00' W. at 1710A/22 course southerly. (F.O.C.N.A., 2241A/22 to N.A. Station)

### Submarines Attacked

By VIMY 21/9. — My 2115A/21. Amend position to read 037° 46' N., 019° 18' W. Strong smell of shale oil. (VIMY, 0008Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
VIMY reports attacking S/M in 037° 46' N., 019° 18' W. at 2115A/21. VIMY continuing search for 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 0817A/22 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

PENELOPE is to patrol the Iceland Faeroes passage to westward of the minefields, with the object of intercepting enemy surface craft.

TIRPITZ was reported S.W. of Oland at 1745 today steering SE in company with 14 unspecified warships believed to be cruisers and torpedo boats.

Operation E.J.

KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS and 6 destroyers sailed from Scapa this evening.

Early this afternoon an aircraft 20 miles north west of Bergen sighted 3 merchant ships escorted be a cruiser, thought possibly to be a new minelaying cruiser. Another aircraft sighted a 6,000 ton tanker escorted by two trawlers north of Alesund. Air striking forces were detailed to attack these units, but fog prevented them from taking off.

British Air Operations.

Air Activity was restricted by unfavourable weather. A minor attack was made on the docks at Boulogne last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy air activity was on a small scale today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Naval aircraft last night attacked merchant vessels reported off Kuriat and sank by torpedo an 8,000 ton ship and hit a small ship Wellingtons attacked at the same time and hit the smaller vessel.

Libya and Western Desert.

THUNDERBOLT has returned from patrol off Benghazi and reports having carried out shore bombardments and successful operations against shipping, including a hit on 13/9 on a CROTONE class minelayer laying mines off Benghazi.

6 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi last night. Targets at Tripoli were also attacked.

There were 3 air raids on Tobruk today, but no damage is reported.

Piraeus.

It is reported that naval patrols at Piraeus have been intensified and the sailing of motor caiques is prohibited.

Black Sea.

It is reported that a submarine patrol from 18/9 to 23/9 has been curtailed by depth charge damage, this being the first occasion of depth charging in the Black Sea. A convoy was attacked close to Constanza and one ship was probably hit.

Varna has been closed to traffic, probably for 7 days.

New Zealand.

DENBIGHHIRE reported sighting a suspicious motor vessel at 1400 G.M.T. today in 14° 52' S., 129° 11' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.L.87

S.L.87 was reported attacked again at 2229Z in 30° 25' N., 23° 55' W. S.S. ST. CLAIR II was torpedoed and sank immediately.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Flag of R.A.1st C.S. to NORFOLK.**

Flag of R.A.1st C.S. will be transferred from DEVONSHIRE to NORFOLK a.m. 25th. (C.S.1. 0938A/23).

**SHEFFIELD.**

Your 1543/22. It is confirmed that SHEFFIELD forms part of 18th C.S. in accordance with A.M. 1326A/21/8, which address include C.S.18. (D.O.D. H., 1106A/23 to C.S.18).

**Fleet Minesweepers with H.F.**

Propose that you should continue to administer Fleet Minesweepers for the present while they are operating with Home Fleet. (C. in C. H.F., 1419A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

**Survivors in Iceland.**

Have 96 merchant service survivors for passage U.K. No transport available before about 7/10. Could a rescue ship be diverted to Iceland to embark them? (A.C.I.C., 1621/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

**Nore Destroyers with convoys.**

As from 1/10 intend to endeavour to maintain a total of 6 Destroyers from Nore Command at sea for Convoy protection on all nights when both North and Southbound convoys are in area South of Outer Dowsing. Allocation arrangements, and dispositions with convoy. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 2358A/23) See Lion Copy.

### Co-Operation With Russia.

**Communications with Archangel.**

C. in C. H.F. 1225A/20, para 2. Suggest direct W/T from U.K. or H.M.Ship to Soviet W/T station at Archangel. Reasons. (Ad. Miles 1138C/23 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

**Baltic. (?6) Russian Vessels sunk or damaged on Night 20/21.**

Two Soviet Minesweeping tugs which arrived off Stockholm Archipelago A.M./21 brought about 60 Russian Naval personnel including 15 officers. The vessels had left Dagkun during the dark hours of the previous evening together with about (?6) other vessels but a German attack by torpedo craft disposed of the remainder.
Tugs were in poor state but good condition of officers and men both in bearing and way they were clothed surprised Swedish Naval Authorities. No details of Naval action or dispositions could be obtained, though Swedes are still expecting Soviet warships for internment. Graded A.2. (N.A.Stockholm 1605/23).

/4,000.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

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/4,000.....

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

4,000 ton M/V sunk on 12/9.

Chuka class submarine 422 returned from patrol off Tana Fjord 22/9. One 4,000 tons westbound unescorted loaded M/V torpedoed and sunk 12/9. 3 other unsuccessful (?attacks) carried out firing radiation torpedoes. No ships sighted between 12/9. and 20/9.

C. in C. Northern Fleet has issued orders to Soviet submarines to adopt salvo firing and firing intervals in accordance with British practice All shore lights showing normal characteristics between 28° east and 30° east except Sletnes Makkauk which were not lit.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1829C/23).

### Defence of United Kingdom.

Sea Platforms for A/A guns.

Consideration is being given to provision of Sea Platforms for Heavy and Light A/A Guns to extend existing gun-defended areas to seaward, for defence against minelaying and torpedo-carrying A/C and against E-boats. Following 3 types of platform are being considered. Details. Request you indicate areas for which A/A cover is required to A/A Command representatives who will shortly discuss matter with you. (D. of L.D., 1929A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth, Portsmouth Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Harwich, Tyne, Immingham, Milford Haven, Liverpool, Belfast, Londonderry). See Lion Copy.

### Movements.

SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, HARRIER, HALCYON, SALAMANDER.

Following are intended dispositions of the escort of P.Q.One after Convoy has arrived Archangel.
(a) SUFFOLK refuel and return to Scapa.
(b) 3 Minesweepers detailed by LEDA to remain at Archangel for local minesweeping duties.
(c) IMPULSIVE, ECLIPSE, and the remaining M/Ss with HARRIER, HALCYON, and SALAMANDER return to Scapa after refuelling and resting. Fuel is available at Seidis Fiord, if required on return passage. (C. in C. H.F., 0019A/23).

MALCOLM.

When Convoy has entered Minches. MALCOLM is to proceed to Belfast to Dock. (C. in C. W.A., -0042A/23 to MALCOLM.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.9.1941. Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements. - Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| AURORA. | My 2207A/22. Add AURORA. (C. in C. H.F., 0042A/23). |
| GRAF VON VLANDEREN. CONSERA. | Admiralty's 2355A/9 and your 1809A/22. Request you sail vessel as soon as ready routed as follows, to Azores to complete with fuel. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions. (C. in C. W.A.,0946A/23 to Capt. D. Londonderry). |
| INDOMITABLE, HEEMSKIRK. | HEEMSKIRK is to provide A/A protection to INDOMITABLE during trials in accordance with Admty's 1903A/23. (C. in C. W.A., 1701A/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast). |
| KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, AURORA. | Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, with VICTORIOUS, AURORA, SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, ESKIMO, and ASHANTI. (A.C.O.S., 1801A/23). |
| BERKELEY, PUCKERIDGE, MEYNELL. | Unless visibility is extreme proceed as soon as conditions allow notwithstanding passage of Dover Straits in daylight. Weather report will be made at 0400. If visibility is likely to exceed 15 miles return to Southend. (C. in C. Nore, 2245A/23 to BERKELEY, PUCKERIDGE, MEYNELL). |

### Operations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Iceland - Faeroes Patrol. PENELOPE. | Proceed Hvalfjord today and carry out patrol of Iceland - Faeroes passage to westward of minefields. Object to intercept enemy surface craft, particularly westbound. Probable duration of patrol 5 days. (C. in C. H.F., 0035A/23 to PENELOPE). |
| Patrol off Schelde. | Weather permitting M.T.B's of unit (3) are to carry out a patrol to-night between Thornton Ridge and Hook of Holland. Surface vessels met east of 2° 30' may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore, 1520A/23 to BEEHIVE). |
| Dover Patrol. | Patrols tonight. 2 Trawlers leave Dover at 1800 for O.D.1. 2 Motor launches in Dungeness East roads. 3 Motor gunboats patrolling between South and East Varne buoys. (V.A. Dover 1712A/23). |
| Patrol F.B. | Auxiliary patrol F.B. is to be adjusted to patrol one mile westward of Channel between Sheringham Bell buoys and 57C as from 25/9. (C. in C. Nore, 1801A/23). |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.9.1941. Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### British Air Activity.

**Patrols.** "Trost" in operation. "Stab" and "Hornli" taking off shortly. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1050/23).

**Portsmouth Command. Requests for Fighter Escorts.** As from 30/9 "Intend to sail" signals for convoys sailing to Dartmouth or Falmouth (PW) will be made by N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, in the form of a signal combining the information now signalled by C. in C. and N.C.S.O.
Request that 10th Group will accept this signal as a request for Fighter escort for those convoys as is done in the Plymouth Commands.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1127A/23).

**Proposed Attacks.** (1) Strike of three Beauforts to attack force of 1 Cr. 3 M.V.s. in Hjelte Fiord, 60° 34' N., 4° 54' E., course 160°, reported by H/235 at 1320. Aircraft to carry bombs.
(2) Three Hudson to attack 6,000 ton tanker in 62° 53' N., 6° 40' E., reported by K/235 at 1410.
(3) Weather conditions indicate strikes at about last light and return to Wick or Lossiemouth.
(Pitreavie A.C.H.Q.,1517/23 to Leuchars, Wick).

**Escort for KING GEORGE V.** Expect one Catalina as A/S escort from 0800A/24 until 1630. Re Recognition. W/T silence not to be broken unless called on.
(C. in C. W.A., 2301A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

### Enemy Air Activity.

**VECHSTROOM (Dutch 845 tons) sunk.** At 0753 today S.S. VECHSTROOM sank in 53° 43' 12" N., 00° 35' 24" E. (F.O. Humber, 1012A/23).
19 survivors including 2 gunners from VECHSTROOM landed Grimsby. Ship damaged by near misses from two aircraft near 62 D buoy 1920/22. No casualties. (F.O. Humber, 1307A/23).

### Mining.

**N.L.8** Intend to carry out operation N.L.8 tonight, from 51° 00' 54" N., 01° 52' 30" E.
(V.A. Dover, 1309A/23).

**Cork Harbour and Shannon minelaying.** Secret. My 1635/24/7. Laying of single line of controlled mines in entrance to Cork Harbour between Camden and Carlisle Forts now taking place. Operation expected to be complete about 4/10. Shannon scheme indefinitely postponed as minelayer requires extensive refit. Proposed approx. position for this field is as follows. T.O.O. 1620/23/9. Grading A.1.
(Dublin,1715/23 to Admty).

/P.W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining. - Contd.

P.W.20. — Prepare to carry out operation P.W.20 with M.T.B.'s on first night weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore, 2232A/23 to BEEHIVE).

### Enemy Intelligence.

Damaged Warship off Floro. — It has been reported that at 1600A/22 a damaged Destroyer or Torpedo Boat passed through 061° 36' N., 004° 58' E., Course South, speed 6 knots, towed by 2 Tugs and escorted by 2 Patrol Boats. Grade B.3. (F.O.S. 0024A/23 to MINERVE).

Cruiser and Convoy off Bergen. — Aircraft reports 1 Cruiser and 3 M/Vs in 60° 34' N., 04° 46' E. Co. 160° at 1320/23. (D.D.I.C., 1520A/23 to MINERVE).
Details. (Pitreavie, 1550/23).
My 1520A/23. Possible that this may be one of the New German Cruiser Minelayers. See W.I.R. No. 22 of 9/8/40. (D.D.I.C., 1800A/23).

### Technical.

KOS 8. Endurance. — It is understood that KOS VIII is required to complete a journey of over 2,000 miles, Trial has been carried out at sea and it is found that the vessel's range is approx. 1400 miles using all oil. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1800/23).

### Casualties & Defects.

GUNVOR MAERSK. (British 1984 tons) WAR PINDARI (British Tanker, 5559 tons) collision. — (C. in C. Nore, 0825A/23 to MALLARD). GUNVOR MAERSK and WAR PINDARI in collision. Former damaged, arrived Humber with tugs SABINE and IRISHMAN in attendance 1730/23. WAR PINDARI sustained slight damage to stem and is proceeding in convoy to destination. (VORTIGERN, 0950A/23 C. in C. Nore, 0825A/23, 1121A/23 WESTMINSTER, 0907A/23, 0940A/23 MALLARD, 0914A/23 F.O. Humber 1743A/23).

ANTWERP. — Admiralty's 2133A/12 to C. in C. W.A. ANTWERP on trial showed defective steering qualties. Ship will require docking. Date of sailing ex Tyne cannot be given at present. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1835/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.12
P.Q.1.

Request you will:-
(a) Detail one ship of 1st C.S. as ocean escort for convoy W.S.12 sailing from Clyde on 30/9 Ship should be sailed to Greenock in time for C.O. to attend conference.
(b) Accordingly SUFFOLK and Destroyers required for escort of P.Q.1. and BLACK RANGER, to arrive Hvalfjord A.M./27.
(c) Sailed SHROPSHIRE in accordance with my 2356A/22. (C. in C. H.F., 0014A/23 to S.O. 1 C.S.)
C. in C. Home Fleet 0014A/23 para (a).
The cruiser escort of W.S.12 after passing Azores will depend upon availability of 6" Cruisers on the conclusion of "Halberd".
2. It is intended that
(a) If all 6" Cruisers are available for immediate service, the 8" Cruiser will continue to escort W.S.12 to the Cape.
(b) If these conditions do not apply, question of escort beyond Azores will be reconsidered.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1924A/23 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1).

S.D.12.

My 1548/22 S.D. 12, CASTLETON, CHARLESTOWN sailed 2000 (?Z/22). (A.C.I.C., 0051/23 to Admty etc).

Escorts.

Sailed WITCH and BLANKNEY in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1945/22 (N.T. in W.D.)
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0907A/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 151.

Escort for H.X. 151 has been amended by Opnav to read DECATUR, LIVERMORE, KEARNEY, PLUNKET, and GREER. (D.T.D., 1102A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Escorts to and from Faeroes.

Your 1832/16. It was not intended that fishing vessels carrying cargo or very small Merchant vessels should be routed to Kirkwall for onward escort. A number of the former class for Faeroes have however recently been sent to Kirkwall from Aberdeen for this purpose. Request my 1206A/16 may be read as applying to Merchant Vessels of 500 tons and over only, and if you have no objection your 1832/16 amended to conform.
(A.C.O.S., 1208A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth).

H.X.150.

Your 2308A/22. This is provided for in the general plan for all convoys. (D.T.D.1243A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

/O.G.75.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.9.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

O.G.75. ARIGUANI will be sailed to R/V with O.G.75. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1458A/23 to C, in C. W.A.).

W/T. Repeats Admty 1113A/22. (D.T.D., 1648A/23 to N.C.S.O.s).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. My 1801A/16. Ships were sighted by ROBIN HOOD on 7/9 in 10° 04' S. 26° 58' W, by STANVAC on 14/9 in 04° 21' S. 34° 45' W, and by STANVAC on 15/9 in 10° 04' S. 34° 58' W. Possibly all the same ship previously sighted by PRINCE DAVID, WARD and [illegible] ship on 31/8. Apparently vessel of FELS class closely resembling Raider 16 but with speed greater than 16's present maximum. Poor Bearings at 1957/22 indicated presence of unit S. of Ascension. My 1801A/16 may refer. (D.D.I.C. 1427A/23 to Spenavo, C's in C. etc.)

North Atlantic

French Shipping. SURBILLE, laden, escorted by French minelayer sloop P.C. and S. 036° 32' N. 007° 35' W. 290°, 9 knots. (ALOUETTE, 0545/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) Convoys passing 21/9, 22/9, see D.O.R. 23/9.

SHEFFIELD. Your 1543/22. It is confirmed that SHEFFIELD forms part of 18th C.S. in accordance with A.M. 1326A/21/8. (D.O.D.(H) 1106A/23 to C.S.18.)

Suspect Ships. Your telegram 104 30/8, my 281 and my 1630/29/8 to Admiralty. Have now ascertained Julio Gonzalez Martin own only sailing vessels DELFIN and MARIA BONMATTI. Although I have no definite proof, all information confirms that these sailing vessels have been trading with enemy. (Las Palmas, 1745/23 to Admty.)

PRINCE OF WALES. Daily Summary Ops. No flying, adverse sea conditions. 233 Squadron, 3 Hudsons escort PRINCE OF WALES, Dawn till dusk, area covered 35.30 N. 09.25 W. to 35.50 N. 07.10 W. (200 Group, 1815/23.)

P.34. My P.C. and S. 042° 20' (?10°) 40', 180° 10. (Weather). (P.34 2300A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic.

Ships ex W.S. 10.

Your 0349/17 para. (2) Ships can be handled provided draughts can be kept down so that they can be berthed safely in following depths; NEA HELLAS 23 feet; INDRAPOERA and VOLENDAM 26 feet. (C. in C. S.A. 0235N/23 to D. of S.T.)

French Convoy.

Report A1, my 1123/18, convoy will arrive at Diego Suarez. (S.O.I. Capetown 1003Z/23 to Admty., C. in C. E.I.)
My 1043/15. Same source reports that ship scheduled to leave 10/10 and will be escort accompanying convoy arriving 25/9 (my 1123/18 refers). (S.O.I Capetown 1023Z/23 to Admty.)

Raider Search, Force F.

Search should be (?extended) to westward as far as possible to cover calm area shown on chart Y 190 in case already extending in this direction. (C. in C. S.A., 1047N/23 to S.O. Force F.)

O.S.6 JUMNA.

On U.K. escort breaking off from O.S.6 request permission JUMNA to proceed direct to Freetown for fuel and provisions there after proceed Capetown for boiler cleaning. Detailed programme will be submitted on arrival Freetown. (JUMNA 1201N/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

BALTAVIA.

Is to proceed Freetown after landing essential items at Falkland Islands. (C. in C. S.A., 1459N/23 to N.O.I.C. Falklands.)

NEWBROUGH.

Have you any news of NEWBROUGH from Trinidad due Buenos Aires 17/9? (D.T.D. 1747A/23 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)
Your 1747/23 NEWBROUGH arrived Buenos Aires today 23rd. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2223Z/23.)

L.L.Whalers.

Request you will reply to Admiralty's 1528A/20 (date of arrival of 156th group of L.L.Whalers etc. in Mediterranean.) (C. in C. S.A. 1844N/23 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

THRASHER, PERSEUS.

From 0500B/26 patrol in area C. keeping to westwards of 018° E. Leave patrol a.m./29 to arrive Malta 1/10 route as ordered by S.10. PERSEUS expects to arrive area C. from 033° 00' 021° 55' a.m./26 and keeps to eastwards of 018° until 0200B/29. (S.1. 1847B/23 to THRASHER.)

/OUED GROU

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

OUED GROU. — Your 2135N/19. Employment of OUED GROU not yet decided but ship will not be be sailed North of Freetown. Elder Dempster, Freetown, are being informed. (D. of S.T. 2255A/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V. — Anticipate small enemy merchant ship on S.E. course will pass through Marsden Square Gavdo 40 about 0500B/23. (Capt.S., 0215B/23 to OSIRIS.)

Leros bombed. — Dodecanese. 22/9. Five Blenheims left Cyprus at dawn to attack Portolago Bay, Leros Island, three aircraft being detailed to attack floating dock and remainder to provide diversionary attack on other objectives in the bay. Attack miscarried and three Blenheims returned with bombs. Diversionary aircraft dropped bombs near barracks and 500 ton supply ship. One Blenheim repeated attack in afternoon bombs dropping from low height straddling floating dock, damage unobserved. Maryland R/C of Stampalia Leros and Kalimnos reported 9 ships 2000 tons and one small ship in Stampalia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1108/23.)

Benghazi bombed. — Western Desert, night 21/22. 4 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour, bombs bursting on ships at Italian Mole and on quays. Further 1 Wellington unable to reach Benghazi attacked barge, results unobserved. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1111/23.)

Turkey. — Chiefs of Staff No.171 to C's in C. M.E. and C. in C. Med. Ref. Mideast GR/00425 of 6/9 and 00491 of 7/9. 1. No objection to increasing dump at Therapia if Ambassador is informed and agrees.
2. We appreciate handicaps under which S.O.E. Organisation established only in Syria will labour but consider this the best policy at present. At the same time, in view of information given to M.A. Ankara that Turks have complete demolition plan, you may consider it opportune for M.A. Ankara to suggest to Turks infiltration of demolition experts to assist their plan.

/In

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

**Turkey contd.** In this connection you will no doubt consider plan for dealing with Turkish railway centre at Eskisehir and Turkish chrome mines in addition to other objectives mentioned by you.
3. F.O. do not agree at present to increase [illegible] cover.
(1st S.L. 1231A/23 to C. in C. Med.)

**Salvage Ships.** Your 1402/20. CONFEDERATE now employed on salvage of GEORGIC in Suez Bay. Ship can be spared for Massawa if urgently required with consequent delay to GEORGIC. It would be necessary to ask for her back immediately if salvage of wreck in canal becomes necessary.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

**Libyan Convoys, forces to attack.** Your 2242/21. Situation has changed somewhat since my 2035/23/8. Air attack in Red Sea has obliged me to send 2 cruisers and 2 A/A ships South of Suez and in consequence I cannot spare cruisers for Malta. Should it be found attacks in in South do not assume serious proportions, and when present flow of vitally important ships is over, it may become possible to reconsider Malta project.
(ii) I consider it would be useless to send any Hunts to Malta. In view of delay as regards cruisers referred to in para.1, a solution might be to send the 4 Hunts here now via Cape and when they are within measurable distance of arrival it may be possible to release necessary fleet destroyers for Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 1339/23 to Admty.)

**Red Sea.** Request for inclusion in Mediterranean Command. (C. in C. Med. 1355B/23 to Admty.for 1 S.L. personal). See Lion Copy.

**Piraeus Intelligence.** 6 merchant ships (corrupt group) over 5000 tons and 5 smaller reported in Piraeus 20/9 and that naval patrols intensified and sailing of motor caiques forbidden. (Capt. S.1 1407B/23 to TALISMAN, TORBAY.)

**ATLAS (German)** Arrived 20th. (Valencia 1515/23 to M. of W.T.)

**CELENO (Italian)** Was expected at Istanbul from Aegean on passage to Black Sea on 23/9 or 24/9. (D.S. 750, 24/9.)

/Varna

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Varna. | Port closed to traffic and Turkish Caiques proceeding there diverted. Port probably closed for 7 days from 23/9. Fact. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1635/23.) |
| COETLOGON (French) | Left 22/9. (Barcelona 1641/23.) |
| S/M Instructions. | Limits imposed in my 1433/11/2 and my 1151/10/4 for S/Ms proceeding on surface by day are cancelled. S/Ms are normally to proceed submerged by day when to Eastwards 7° E. but if operation or other circumstances demand they are at liberty to proceed on surface as requisite. Weather conditions, locality and chance of counter attack or sighting will be deciding factors. An efficient zigzagging carried out when on the surface both by day and by night and utmost alertness is required of look out to guard against surprise by enemy A/C, light surface forces, or S/Ms, all of which have been encountered on various occasions by day and by night. (Capt S.1., 1735B/23 to 1st S.M. Flot.) |
| MAURO CROCE (Italian) ATLAS (German) | Extract from a Fairmiss telegram, 22nd arrival MAURO CROCE. ATLAS expected sailing 24th. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1950/23 to D. of S.T.) |
| Situation Report 152. | Western Desert. Operation "Supercharge" continues enemy air opposition not at present severe. 7th C/S at sea night of 22/23 in support of destroyers. Intensive armed air R/C being maintained between Libya and Crete.<br>2. Eastern Med. Shipping Route. Palestine schooner ANTAR set on fire by U-Boat after being missed by torpedo at 2300/21 whilst on passage Beirut - Haifa crew landed Tyre. SOUTHERN SEA unsuccessfully bombed whilst endeavouring to tow (? hull) of ANTAR to Beirut. A/S activity is being maintained in area.<br>3. Red Sea. Cruiser and Sloop are escorting ship through Gulf of Suez. No further enemy air activity reported.<br>4. Turkey. (? anti Torpedo) boom now reported complete operation "Gate" successful.<br>5. Submarines. Details of 10th S/M Flotilla attack see N.O.i/c Malta 1421/20. THUNDERBOLT returned from patrol off Benghazi and reports (A) 7/9 1500 ton merchant ship torpedoed believed to be sunk. (B) 9/9 bombarded Fortina Beroli, Sirte and 10/9 damaged by gunfire and probably sank large schooner at El Auegia in face of |

/opposition

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.9.1941. Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean.

**Situation Report 152 contd.** opposition from shore batteries. (C) 11/9 torpedoed camouflaged merchant ship off Volga seen on fire later. (D) 13/9 attacked CROTONE class Minelayer laying mines off Benghazi and scored one hit. (E) 14/9 launched attack on 5000 tons merchant ship 30 miles North of Benghazi result uncertain. (C. in C. Med. 2031B/23.)

**Malta Raid.** Night 22/23. Short alert 0139 to 0153. 1 raider crossed coast. Few bombs dropped. Negligible damage. 2 civilians slight casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2230/23.)

**M/Vs attacked off Kuriat.** Night 22/23, Swordfish attacked M/Vs reported off Kuriat 2015 hrs. Torpedo attack on ships sighted 0622 23/9. 1 Torpedo struck larger vessel amidships resulting in large patch of oil on water. Second torpedo struck small ship forward, seen later down by bows. Same time 3 Wellingtons attacked larger vessel, 1 near miss large merchant vessel and 1 hit on smaller vessel confirmed by Swordfish.

**Tripoli bombed.** 5 Wellingtons attacked barracks Tripoli 2105 to 2140 hrs. (H.Q. Malta, 2236/23.)

**Benghazi mines.** THRASHER reports mine observed in area between following positions all from Benghazi Light (A) 321° 12.9 (B) 326° 17.2 (C) 347° 16.4 (D) 340° 11.2. Also mine detected by asdic in circle radius 1.5 miles about position 344° 5.2 miles from Benghazi light. (Capt. S.1 2325B/23 to PERSEUS.)

**TETRARCH OSIRIS** No soldiers embarked in TETRARCH but 40 will be ready for OSIRIS on 25th. If MacNab cannot embark in OSIRIS, Lawrence requests submarine may be sent to evacuate them both in about 3 weeks, date to be signalled to OSIRIS. Am ready to proceed on patrol. (TETRARCH 2335B/23 to S.1.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

| | |
|---|---|
| KANIMBLA and MANOORA exchange. | Your 2243/21. Re KANIMBLA and MANOORA, no objection. (C. in C. E.I., 0448Z/23 to Admty.) |
| Defences, Ports T and W. | 1556X/23/3 para.(b). Commander 1st R.M. Group M N B D O recommends that 2 DELS be sighted to cover each entrance. Intend therefore to use 2 additional DELS from M N B D O equipment for this purpose. (C. in C. E.I., 0548Z/23 to Admty.) |
| HOHENFELS (German) | My 1456/8/9. HOHENFELS was refloated by KANIMBLA 22/9 and successfully beached again on an even keel and trim. It is hoped to have her ready for towing by about 28/9, my 0516/18/9 also refers. (C. in C. E.I., 0724Z/23 to Admty.) |
| GRANIKOS. | Cancel my 0544/21 GRANIKOS arrived Calcutta. (S.O.I Colombo 0752Z/23 to Admty. etc.) |
| SHOREHAM, FALMOUTH. | C. in C. Med. 1118/18. (1) Following is programme for SHOREHAM. Bombay leave p.m./24 Aden arrive 1/10 leave 2/10. FALMOUTH, 2 days later. Request you will say if you wish ships to go direct to Suez. Both ships will have been depermed and ranged. On arrival preferably end of Red Sea SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH will come under your orders. (C. in C. E.I., 1358Z/23 to F.O.15 C.S.) |

### China.

| | |
|---|---|
| Repatriations. | My 0217/12. Have Annamite troops sailed? If so what is E.T.A. at Singapore? (C. in C. China 0631Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown) Reply: 1205/24. |
| VOLGA. | Russian S.S. VOLGA sailed from Singapore 7/9 due Hong Kong ?13/9. Ship still not arrived nor reported from elsewhere. Typhoon weather here 13th to 16th. (Comdre Hong Kong 1214I/23 to Admty. amended 1523I/23.) |

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.9.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PRINCESS MARGUERITE, PRINCESS KETHLEEN. When ready request you will sail PRINCESS MARGUERITE and PRINCESS KATHLEEN for Suez calling at Honolulu, Suva, Port Darwin, Singapore, Colombo and Aden for fuel. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to report anticipated date of sailing and intended programme to Suez. (D.S.T. 1142A/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

DIOMEDE. Your 1552Q/17 DIOMEDE will depart 1600 due 0600R/25. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1200R/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MANCHESTER. Arrived Philadelphia. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1305Z/23 to Admty.)

GLADIOLUS, DIANTHUS. B.A.R.M's 1636R/22. GLADIOLUS will arrive St. Johns about 28/9 and is immediately available for refit. Only other R.N. Corvette in N.E.F. due for refit is DIANTHUS which normally will not arrive St. Johns before about 16/10 vide my 1319Z/14. To avoid undue delay to GLADIOLUS request whether ships should be sailed singly to Charleston. (C.C.N.F. 1348Z/23 to Admty., B.A.R.M.)
B.A.R.M's 1636R/22. Observing the importance of making full use of U.S. docking facilities request you will detail an R.N. Corvette to accompany GLADIOLUS to Charleston. If a relief is necessary it is hoped that this might be afforded by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa in continuation of policy outlined in his 2050Z/22. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1815/23 to C.C.N.F.)

MENESTHEUS. Anticipate date of sailing from Baltimore 30/9. MENESTHEUS, 1430/23 to Admty.)
Your 0942R/17 to R.A.3 only. Would like 300 tons of cargo space in MENESTHEUS for N.A.A.F.I. stores for U.K. Suggest remainder be utilised locally by you. Request vessel may be sailed for Halifax accordingly on completion of refit subject to any over-riding orders from Admiralty. (R.A.3., 1601/23 to B.A.R.M.)

Corvettes. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2050Z/22. R.N. Corvettes in Newfoundland Escort Force can be released as follows:-
(A) HONEYSUCKLE, CELANDINE, NASTURTIUM, CANDYTUFT CAMELIA, PRIMROSE, GLADIOLUS forthwith.
(B) DIANTHUS on arrival Iceland 28/9 and POLYANTHUS Iceland 4/10.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Corvettes contd. 2. (A) PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM complete refit Charleston about 30/9.
(B) DIANTHUS and GLADIOLUS due for refit Charleston vide my 1348Z/23.
(C) CANDYTUFT awaiting towage to New York for repair vide B.A.R.W's 1656R/22.
(C.C.N.F. 1437Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Policy for Singapore Conference. Your 0337A/22 para.3 (c). Should one battle cruiser be included in this force in addition to one 'R' class battleship?
(B.A.D., 1459R/23 to Admty.)

HARBOE JENSEN. Norwegian HARBOE JENSEN will be ready to leave New York about 30/9 for Suez where she will be required for service in Eastern Mediterranean. Request her firm date of sailing from New York and intended ports and dates of call en route. Passage should be expedited as much as possible.
(D.S.T., 1515A/23 to N.C.S.O. New York.)

Rumours. Dissemination to deceive enemy. (1st S.L. 1532A/23 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., etc.) See Lion Copy.)

ROUERGUE. Meter. My 1605/16. Marseilles 20/9 B.1 ROUERGUE arrived for repairs and cleaning which are expected to take approx. 90 days.
(B.A.D., 1705R/23 to Admty.)

LORRAINE (French) My 2215Z/22. Ship arrived at bar Port Isabel but returned to sea account of severe hurricane. Shall report arrival later.
(Galveston 1845Z/23 to Admty.)

DAUPHIN, BARRIE. Your 1630/22. Re depth charge outfit for corvettes 16/9. All heavy D/Cs available in Canada have been issued. Owing to deliveries of (?weights) by Admiralty being far behind requirements it has been necessary for some time to issue reduced outfits to corvettes.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1900Z/23 to C.C.C.S.)

U.S. Forces Movement Report supplement. (Opnav 2027Z/23) See Lion Copy.

H.X.150. Your 1856A/22. Our 1600/21 to "Comtask" unit. 4. 1. 1. reads in accordance with your 1830/20.
(Opnav 2100Z/23 to Admty.)

## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies - contd.

T.C.14. — D. of S.T. 1725A/22/8 and 1614A/9. Subject to arrival of AORANGI at Halifax by 4/10. T.C.14 should be ready to sail on 5/10. Convoy will be composed of 7 ships of which slowest is AORANGI, 16 knots. Ref. C.N.S. Canada 1407Z/22, request early decision as to provision of escorts.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2121Z/23 to Admty.)
Cancelled, see 1514/24.

H.X.151. — My 1950/22. Senior Officer Comdesron 27 is in PLUNKET instead of DECATUR.
(Opnav 2123Z/23.)

### Australia and New Zealand.

P.W.S.S. Torres Strait. — A P.W.S.S. has been established on Goods Island, Torres Strait, in 010° 34' S. 142° 09' E. C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, and C.Z.M. Batavia have been notified.
(A.C.N.B., 0139Z/23 to Admty.)

Nukualofa defences. — W.M.6. All lights, marks, buoys and beacons for Lahi Egeria and Marinoa, entrance Nukualofa Harbour, are being removed. Only entrance buoyed and beaconed will be Biha (Eastern).
(S.O.I. Wellington 1502M/23 to all W.M. addressees.)

Suspicious ship. — 23/9 1400 G.M.T. 014° 52' S. 129° 11' W. sighted motor vessel suspicious, DENBIGHSHIRE.
(CHANCELLOR, 1600/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

S.C.42. (attacked 11/9.)

As no further news received of British ships EMPIRE CROSSBILL, 5463 tons, MUNERIC, 5229 tons, and BULYSSES, 7519 tons, they are now presumed sunk. 15 ships in all are now believed to have been lost in this convoy.
(D.S., 749, 23/9.) (For list, see Situation Report, 16/9.)

ANTAR.

Palestine schooner, set on fire by U/B 2300/21.
(C. in C. Med. 2031B/23.) See Mediterranean.

S.L.87. SILVERBELLE. (torpedoed 22/9.)

Your 2357A/22. (?2342A/22.) Have turned over tow to COMMANDANT DUBOC, P.C.and S., 026° 00' N., 023° 40' W., 000° 5 knots, and am rejoining convoy at 15½ knots. SILVERBELLE in critical condition but collision mats and hand pumps placed aboard have stopped water gaining.
(GORLESTON, 0101Z/23, to C. in C.W.A.)
My 2200Z/22. 2 torpedoed ships were EDWARD BLYDEN, entire crew and passengers safe; NICETO DE LARRINAGA, 48 men safe, one man believed missing, 2 men died after rescue. Both ships sank.
(LULWORTH, 0801Z/23 to Admty.)
EDWARD BLYDEN, 5003 tons, British, Takoradi for Liverpool with general and W.A. produce.
NICETO DE LARRINAGA, 5591 tons, British, Lagos for London with W.A. produce and manganese.
(D.S., 750, 24/9.)
My 2218A/22. No tug available Ponta Delgada, Admiralty requested to recode in S.P. 02281 vide C. in C. South Atlantic 1730/15 and pass to French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC. Recoding table not held at Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042A/23 to GORLESTON.)
(Passed by War Registry.)
My 1703A/22. Further sets of D/F bearings indicate that at least one German U/Boat is still in the vicinity of Convoy S.L.87. Last transmission was at 1345Z/23.
(D.D.I.C. 1549A/23 to GORLESTON, BIDEFORD.)
Proceeded in accordance with C. in C.W.A's., 1616A/22. My P.C. and S. at 1600, 041° 50' N., 019° 11' W., 123° 13.5. (Weather.)
(DEPTFORD, 1640A/23, to F.O.C.N.A.)
S.L.87 attacked in 030° 25' N., 023° 35' W. At least one ship torpedoed starboard side.
(GORLESTON, 2235Z/23, to Admty.,amended 0130/24.)
ST.CLAIR II, see GORLESTON, 0130/24.

MARKEN (torpedoed 10/9.)

A cable from Reuter London quoting Italian Official News Agency, Rome, states that 37 survivors of Dutch ship MARKEN have been landed at Santos. This report originated from Santos and states ship was torpedoed 1400 miles from Trinidad. Ship due Capetown tomorrow 24/9 from Trinidad.(S.O.I.Capetown,1014B/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.9.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1040 G.M.T. S.S.DIALA reports sighted submarine in 010° 20' N., 054° 50' W., at 1040 G.M.T./23.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 09330/23 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)
(D.O.D.(F), 2357A/23 to Spenavo, message stopped by D.S.O., re-sent at 0040/24.)

Governor Dutch Guiana reports 2 ships sighted unidentified submarine 240 miles northward. Paramaribo sighted at 1040 G.M.T./23 010° 20'N., 054° 50' W., by DIALA.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1020R/23 1500GR/23 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

1615/21. Oporto reports an unidentified submarine sighted 1615/21 one mile off shore at Viana Do Reaso. Was this Spanish or Portuguese?
(S.O.I. Gib., 1048/23 to N.A.'s, Madrid,Lisbon.)
Your 1048/23. Submarine was not Portuguese.
(N.A.Lisbon 1851/23 to S.O.(I)Gib.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C.1436A/23.)

1619A. Italian U. Boat call sign 86A made first sight report O.G.74 or H.G.73 at 1619A/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1643A/23 to HIGHLANDER, H.G.73, ROCKINGHAM, O.G.74.)

2028Z. D/F Bearings indicate that Convoy H.G.73 was reported by an Italian U-Boat at 2028Z/23.
(D.D.I.C.2208A/23 to HIGHLANDER,FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.9.1941
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A coast watcher at Lowland Point near the Manacles reported that numbers of men landed and after being challenged returned to a ship which weighed at 0215. CLEVELAND was ordered to investigate.

Fog.

The Thames and Medway were closed owing to mines at 0625. Sweeping was delayed owing to fog which necessitated the rivers being closed at 0729 until 1310. Harwich was closed from 1014A to 1603, and was closed again at 1915A.

Enemy coastal batteries fired a few rounds this afternoon whilst C.W.51 was near Dover. No damage or casualties occurred.

German Fleet in Baltic.

It is reported that an enemy squadron consisting of TIRPITZ, SCHEER, 2 light cruisers (apparently KÖLN and NÜRNBERG), 4 large destroyers and 6 T.B's was near the Aaland Islands this evening, carrying out a demonstration with the object of enhancing morale rather than a strategic attempt to prevent the flight of the Russian fleet.

S.S. NIGARISTAN in H.X. 150 caught fire and was abandoned today about 550 miles S.W. of Iceland (C).

British Air Operations.

Operations were affected by bad weather today. A Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a 6000 ton merchant vessel off Alsboen Light today and reports two probable hits.

MOST SECRET

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

It is known that aircraft of long range bomber units based in Norway have recently operated from Trondheim.
Enemy activity was on a small scale today.

Mining.

S.S. DALTONHALL in O.N.M.20 was slightly damaged by a mine at 2030A today in position 006° Skokholm 3½ miles.

North Atlantic.

RODNEY relieved NELSON in Force H at Gibraltar today.

8 M.L's arrived at Gibraltar escorted by SAMPHIRE and CONVOLVULUS today.

Mediterranean.

Any warships met wearing Bulgarian colours are to be sunk.

/Petrol.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Petrol in S/M's.

Petrol has been carried to Malta in certain internal oil fuel tanks of several S/M's proceeding from Gibraltar or Alexandria. F.O.S. considers this should only be carried out in emergency, in view of the risks entailed should any leakage inboard of petrol occur.

Operation "Halberd"

RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, and 8 destroyers sailed from Gibraltar at 2330 today for the operation of passing Convoy W.S.11.X. to Malta.

Libya & Western Desert.

There was an air attack on Tobruk in the early hours of this morning, during which it is reported that mines were laid in the harbour. The harbour was shelled today, but no damage was caused.

8 Wellingtons attacked shipping at Tripoli last night.

6 Wellingtons bombed shipping and the harbour at Benghazi last night, exploding by direct hits a ship moored at the outer mole.

Naval aircraft bombed targets near Bardia last night.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on S.L.87. 8 ships torpedoed in all, viz: SILVERBELLE, EDWARD BLYDEN, NICETO DE LARRINAGA, ST.CLAIR II, JOHN HOLT, LAFIAN, DIXCOVE, ASHBY.

Convoy S.L.87 was attacked again (for the fourth time) about 0441Z in 31° 12' N. 23° 32' E. approx. Four ships are reported to have been torpedoed, viz. JOHN HOLT, LAFIAN, DIXCOVE and ASHBY; all four were sunk.
GORLESTON reports that she was enabled through fuelling at the Azores to operate continuously at night and on extensive dusk sweeps, and was the only escort from whose direction no attack was developed.

War Diary

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS

### Policy

1st M/S Flotilla. — Concur that Administration as at present should continue until M.S. 1. leaves this Command, when it is proposed Administration should be transferred to the Command under which he will be operating.
(C. in C. W.A., 1023A/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

SUNFISH SEAWOLF — Admiralty 1828A/22. In order to maintain a force British submarines in Northern waters while ice free bases remain available, it is intended to sail SUNFISH and SEAWOLF to Polyarno when ready about 1/11 to relieve TIGRIS and TRIDENT after their third patrols are completed about the same date. S.B.N.O. Murmansk is requested to sail TIGRIS and TRIDENT to Holy Loch accordingly. (F.O.S., 1433A/24)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN — A.M. 1245A/20. Para 5. For 100 military personnel read 230 service personnel. (D.O.D. H. 1932A/24 to ROYAL ULSTERMAN)

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

U.S. Bases in U.K. — Bases now being prepared by the U.S. in the U.K. will be used by British Forces if U.S. forces do not require them. Their completion is urgently necessary. Request you will investigate and if delay is being imposed, take the matter up with U.S. Authorities. It is understood that Admiral Ghormley is making similar representations to Navy Dept.
(Civil Lord, 1559A/24 to B.A.D. Washington)

### Co-operation with Russia

British Mission Personnel. — My 1847A/17. Officers mentioned have been embarked in LONDON.
As you have not replied presume you have not experienced any difficulty in arranging for Powell to act as Naval Liaison Officer for Russian Fleet in the Far East. Please confirm.
(N.I.D.. 1415A/24 to Ad, Miles.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## HOME COMMANDS

### Defence of U.K.

**Landing of Men at Lowland Point.**

Coast watcher at Lowland Point near Manacles reports numbers of men landed and after being challenged returned to ship which weighed at 0215. Investigate. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0242/24 to CLEVELAND)
C. in C. Plymouth 0242. On no account get out of swept channel. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0401/24 to CLEVELAND)

**East Coast navigational aids.**

With the approach of winter the following six alterations in navigational aids on the East Coast are considered desirable. Request they may be given effect to as soon as possible. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1202A/24.)

### Movements

BROADWATER — C. in C. W.A. 1106A/23. BROADWATER can sail within 72 hours of receipt of Impellors. These Impellors have not yet been traced. (HECLA 0001Z/24 to A.C.I.C.)

SEAWOLF — Patrol in Bay of Biscay north zone. S.B.R. arranged in areas 54 and 55 East of 06° 30' W. until further notice. (F.O.S. 1144A/24 to SEAWOLF)

SUFFOLK — Scapa arrival. (A.C.O.S. 1513/24)

SEALION — A large Convoy arrives junction Q.Z.S. 169 and 271 for Eastward at dawn tomorrow. You are to remain South of 050° 20' N. until 1100 and then proceed R/V end of Q.Z.S. 169 with KINGSTON JACINTH and ARCTIC PIONEER at noon. S.B.R. arranged in Area 41 until 1100 and total in Sanctuary extends 20 miles to Eastwards and 10 miles to Southwards from 1100 until you are in contact with escort.
(Capt. S. 5. 1605A/24 to SEALION)

SUFFOLK
IMPULSIVE
ANTELOPE
ANTHONY
ECLIPSE — SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY leave Scapa 2000A/25. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 0830A/27. Expect ECLIPSE will be ready to leave Scapa p.m./27 for Seidis Fiord where she will fuel and then relieve ANTELOPE in escort of P.Q.1. Expected time of arrival ECLIPSE at Seidis Fiord will be passed to you. It is requested you will then arrange her R/V with P.Q. 1. ANTHONY detailed for escort of BLACK RANGER.
(C.S. 1. 2226A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Operations.

**Nore Patrols.** Patrols tonight Wednesday (1) 2 M.G.B's vicinity 61 B Buoy shifting to Leman Bank at 0100/25. (2) 3 M.L.'s vicinity Smiths Knoll Buoy (3) 2 M.G.B's operations Q.E. with A/P patrol .FY. (C. in C. Nore 1435A/24 to S.N.E.C.C.D.)

**Dover Patrols.** Three M.Ls. leave Dover at 2130 and return at about 0100/25, route via N.E. Varne each way. Three M.T.Bs. leave Dover at 1945 to patrol between South and East Varne Buoys returning to Dover by 2300. (V.A. Dover, 1657A/24).

**Convoy C.W.51 shelled.** Enemy Coastal Batteries fired six rounds between 1532 and 1534 today. All fell in the sea to the Westward of Dover.
C.W.51 was in the vicinity at the time. No damage or casualties reported.
(V.A. Dover, 1754A/24).

### British Air Activity.

**Patrols.** Two Hudsons, armed S.A.P. Bombs, to patrol as follows:-
Direct line Wick to 57° 40' N., 8° E., thence N. to make landfall, returning coastwise to Meridian of 6° 30' E., thence direct to Wick.
Coastwise patrol only to be carried out if cloud cover good and original approach to be made as low as possible. (Pitreavie A.C.H.Q. 0745/24).
"Hornli" in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1100/24).
Two aircraft to carry out Rover Patrol in "Stab" area. (Pitreavie A.C.H.Q. 0755/24 to Wick).

**M/V attacked off Stadtlandet.** My 1230 (see Enemy Intelligence). Have attacked one M/V 6,000 tons, level bombing. Estimate one probable hit. In fiord, 6 knots. (A/C K.220, 1237/24).

**Channel Convoy Fighter Escorts.** The Boundary between 10 and 11 Group fighter command areaslies about 10 miles east of Durlestone Head. Approximately on crossing this line convoy fighter escorts will be relieved by fighters from the command into whose area the convoy is proceeding. On this relief taking place destroyers fitted VH/F are to shift to the appropriate Group Guard frequency and establish communication. In order that Naval escorts may be aware of the time when the fighter escort will be relieved by fighters from the other Group, C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to pass this information to the Naval escort.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1920/24).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Enemy Air Activity.

Faeroes. One enemy Twin-engined Monoplane passed over Faeroes between 1340 to 1412. One bomb dropped at Westmannhavn. No casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1455A/24).

### Mining.

N.L.16 B. Intend to carry out operation N.L.16 (B) tonight . (V.A. Dover, 1134A/24).

Hartlepool. At 1415/24 one red mine detonated by LL Sweeper. Details. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1500/24).

Thames Estuary. 1 S.A. mine detonated at 1315/23. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1545/24).

Unknown Ship. Following received on 500 kc/s by Rosyth W/T. B.Z.C.T. anticipate mined. (Lands End 1832/24) (C. in C. Plymouth 1935/24 to Admty).

### Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. (A) TIRPITZ sighted South West Oland at 1745/23, course 060°, speed 15 knots, in company with 14 unspecified Warships believed cruisers and torpedo boats. Graded B.2.
(B) TIRPITZ sighted A.M.21st between Sassnitz and Trelleborg, escorted by 3 torpedo craft steaming East. Graded C.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1151/24) (D.D.I.C. 1705A/24 to Ad. Miles, and 1706A/24 to C. in C. H.F. and S.B.N.O. Murmansk). Your 1151/24 is probably correct. (D.D.I.C. 1707A/24 to N.A. Stockholm).

Off Stadlandet. 3 M/Vs and 4 Auxiliaries bearing 090° 2', course 160°. My position 62° 03' N., 5° 10' E. (A/C K/220., 1230/24 to 18 Group)
My 1230. Have attacked 1 M.V. 6,000 tons level bombing, estimate 1 probable hit. In fjord 6 knots. (K/220 1237/24).
My 1237. 1 M.V. 6,000 tons tanker unladen, with two M.V. 3000 tons 1500 tons, 3 trawlers, 1 submarine all auxiliaries. (K/220, 1245/24).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. SCHEER observed carrying out exercises off Sassnitz p.m./20. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1531/24).

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## HOME COMMANDS.

### Miscellaneous.

| | |
|---|---|
| Thames and Medway. | Thames and Medway closed. Sweeping delayed owing to fog. (X.D.O. Sheerness, 0625/24) (F.O.I.C. London 0729/24).<br>Thames and Medway opened. (X.D.O. Sheerness, 1310/24). |
| Harwich. | Port closed owing to Fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1014A/24).<br>Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1603A/24).<br>Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1915A/24). |

### Casualties & Defects.

| | |
|---|---|
| MERKUM. | (Danish Auxiliary Motor Schooner) Ashore Gansey Point, Port St. Mary Bay. Crew of seven taken ashore. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 0400/24).<br>My 0400/24. Vessel refloated at 1430 and berthed at Port St. Mary Hull Slight damage. Can be repaired locally. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1555/24). |
| S.S. BEREBY. | At 0125A/24 S.S. BEREBY 5248 tons, Liverpool for Istanbul, Army and air force stores, went ashore Ringford Point 54°-15'N., 005° 36' W., during fog. Salvage officer in tug ST. OLAVES proceeding from Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0609A/24 F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0641A/24).<br>Sailed ST. OLAVES. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0715A/24). |
| MAKEFJELL (Norwegian, 1567 tons). | MAKEFJELL position Roth ground buoy. Engine defect. KINGSTON ONYX ordered to assistance. (SLEIPNER, 1249/24). |
| RIPLEY (Grounded 4/9). | RIPLEY in tow 2 tugs with Trawler escorts leave Humber 2200/24 for Middlesbrough. E.T.A. Flamborough Head 0700/25. (C. in C. Nore, 1629A/24).<br>My 1134A/20. RIPLEY anchored in Humber in dense fog. (F.O. Humber, 2102A/24). |
| IRISH LARCH. | Following received at 1018. IRISH LARCH making for Reykjavik with trouble. No approach charts. Weather bad. Estimated position at ten hours 60 miles, from Cape Utskalar. (A.C.O.3 Recd. 1759/24). |

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

PASTEUR. (?Evening) position 055° 22' 025° 54'. Heavy seas. If PASTEUR is sent on independently can escort (?be) provided near U.K.?
(ASSINIBOINE, 0155Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)
PASTEUR is not to proceed without escort.
(C. in C. W.A., 0947A/24 to ASSINIBOINE).

S.L.86. All now present. MANSFIELD E.T.A. Oban 0800/25. CHATEAUROUX has defective degaussing. Liverpool BROKE relieved EGRET about 1600/24. E.T.A. position Q 0500/25. E.T.A. Bar 1000/26 CHELSEA not in Company. (BROKE, 1031/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.148 Met as arranged. SOCONY sunk in collision with TONGARIRO 9/9 all other ships arrived. Much fog. (D.T.D., 1516A/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Numbers and cargoes. (D.S.746, 20/9).

S.C.42 Attacked by U-boat from p.m./9 to a.m./11 during which EMPIRE CROSSBILL, SALLY MAERSK, STARGARD, BARON PENTLAND, THISTLEGLEN, EMPIRE HUDSON, WINTERSWIJK, MUNERIC, GARM, GYPSUM QUEEN, STONEPOOL, BULYSSES, SCANIA and BERURY were sunk and TAHCHEE and BESTUM damaged, and again on 16/9 when JEDMOOR was sunk. EMPIRE SPRINGBUCK straggler on 5/9 not reported. 5 days northerly gales and low visibility. U-boats were heavily counter-attacked with, it is hoped, successful results. (D.T.D., 1713A/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

D.S.12 B. S.S. BERGERSFJORD will form convoy D.S.12B leaving Clyde 1/10.
(D.O.D. (H) 1916A/24 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

O.N.19 ALBERNI, KERROGAMI, are to proceed with O.N.19 to Canada. (C. in C. W.A., 2215A/24 to BEAGLE).

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### North Atlantic.

Operation "Halberd". Departure 2000 FLEUR-DE-LYS, BROWN RANGER, 2330 RODNEY, ARK ROYAL, HERMIONE, DUNCAN, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, LIVELY, ZULU, GURKHA, LEGION, LANCE.
(F.O.C.H.A., 0346/24 to Admty., etc.)

### South Atlantic.

T.C.14. My 1614/11, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1903/22, and your 1521/22. Report urgently dates on which ORCADES and MONARCH OF BERMUDA may be expected to arrive Halifax. If these two ships cannot arrive in time to embark and sail from Halifax with T.C.14 on 8/10, it may be necessary to order them to U.K. direct from Trinidad in order that they may sail in next W.S. Convoy. Presume ANDES and REINA DEL PACIFICO have ample time in hand to catch T.C.14. but their expected dates of arrival Halifax should also be reported.
(D.S.T., 0138/24 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
Your 0138/24. Estimated date of arrival at Halifax, REINA DEL PACIFICO, 25/9; ANDES, 28/9; MONARCH OF BERMUDA 8/10, ORCADES 10/10. Last 2 ships arrive Trinidad 30/9 and 2/10 respectively. My 0956/11 my 1203/16 my 1610/22 refer.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1534B/24 to D. of S.T.)

Annamite Repatriations. Your 0631/23. No opportunity has yet occurred for repatriation and it is not known when a ship will be available.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0915B/24 to C. in C. China.)

S.L.88. For consideration whether if endurance of escort allows route for S.L.88 would not be better if moved to 80 miles from Verde Island then through about 023° N. 030° W. and up longitude 030° W. as far as required to clear danger eastwards.
(C. in C. S.A., 1121N/24 to Admty.)
Departure 0800/24 VERVAIN, ASTER, BURDOCK, VANSITTART, MORRIS DANCE, FANDANGO will convoy S.L.88.
(S.O.I.Freetown, 1403N/24 to Admty., etc.)

/Exchange....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### South Atlantic - Contd.

**Exchange of Corvettes.**

Admty. 1844/5/9 and 2122A/12/9. Exchange of 8 corvettes affects refitting programme which must now depend on whether C. in C. W.A. can accept the corvettes from S.A. Station that are next due for refit, the first two on arrival in U.K. and remainder in turn subsequently. Assuming this can be accepted following are intended movements. GARDENIA with S.L.87 arrives U.K. about 6/10. VERVAIN with S.L.88 arrives U.K. about 16/10. ASPHODEL and CALENDULA with S.L.89 U.K. about 26/10. ANCHUSA and CLEMATIS with S.L.90 U.K. about 6/11. CYCLAMEN and COLUMBINE with S.L.91 U.K. about 16/11. On arrival of last two named exchange of 8 corvettes will be complete.
(C. in C. S.A., 1407N/24 to Admty.)

**R.O's. Saldanha, etc.**

Following proposals received from S.N.O. Capetown in which I concur. Propose to close down Reporting Officers at Saldanha Bay, Port Nolloth and Luderitz (reasons).
2. Propose to retain these officers as coast watching officers.
4. Propose later to arrange similar coast watching officers in other small ports where there is no reporting officer.
5. No difficulty with South African Authorities over these proposals.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1418B/24 to Admty.)

**REPULSE.**

Departure St. Helena 24/9, 1500, REPULSE on operations.
(General, St. Helena, 1525/24 to Admty. etc.)

**Nazi move, Argentine.**

Principal military air bases in Argentine were occupied by army yesterday evening 23/9 in view of reports of possible subversive move. Government are reported to have situation fully in hand.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1554Z/24 to D.N.I.)

**REPULSE, BULOLO, ALCANTARA.**

It was intended that REPULSE should escort Durban portion of W.S.11 to Durban and BULOLO escort Cape portion there when ready. Owing to defects in CARNARVON CASTLE it is desired that BULOLO shall take her place to visit Tristan da Cunha as arranged and relieve ALCANTARA with R.A.S.A.D. leaving Simonstown by 28/9. If this is done can you provide any escort to take Cape portion of W.S.11 to Durban, leaving Capetown about 4/10?
(C. in C. S.A., 1955N/24 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Suspicious....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Suspicious Ships.

Ships were sighted by ROBIN HOOD ?(on) 7/9 ? in 010° 04' S. 026° 58' W., by STANVAC on 14/9 in 004° ?(41') S. 034° 45' W. and by STANVAC on 15/9 in 010° 04' S. 034° 58' W. Possibly same ship previously sighted by PRINCE DAVID, WASP, and unknown British ship on 31/8. Apparently vessel of FELS class closely resembling Raider 16, but with speed greater than 16's present maximum.
Poor bearings at 1957/22 indicate presence of unit south of Ascension.
(C. in C. S.A. 2045N/24 to S.A. Stn.)

W.S.11.

My 1801/4, amended 0140/18, and my 0139/24. Revised proposals for transhipment of W.S.11. personnel in South Africa.
(D.S.T. 2302A/24 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown.)
See Lion Copy.

Mediterranean.

TETRARCH, TALISMAN.

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol as follows: TETRARCH through Antikithera Channel and West of Belo Pulo to area A between 037° and 038° 30' West of 025° 40'. TALISMAN from area A direct to area B off Dardanelles North of 039° 30' East of 025°.
(S.1, 0505B/24 to TETRARCH, TALISMAN.)

TETRARCH, OSIRIS.

TETRARCH reports 40 soldiers will be ready embarkation 25th.
(Capt. S.1, 0931B/24 to OSIRIS.)

Bulgarian Warships.

Should any Warships be met wearing Bulgarian Colours, they are to be sunk. T.O.O. 0921B/24.
(C. in C. Med., 0947B/24 to Med. Fleet.)

/ S/M. Patrol,

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M Patrol, Black Sea.

Following from Fawkes. S/M patrol 18/9 to 23/9 not without incident, unfortunately curtailed depth charge damage. Convoy attacked close Constanza, probably one hit. S/M depth charged with slight damage. First occasion depth charging in Black Sea, valuable lessons gained thereby. Local authorities seem unduly grateful my slight assistance and advice on this occasion. Propose visit you soon after arrival next 'English' mails.
(Adm. Miles, 1029C/24 to Admty.)

Benghazi bombed.

Night 22-23/9, 6 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour, bombs bursting on bases of Central and Cathedral moles, 9 Marylands made high level bombing attack on petrol dump South of Gambut.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1229/24.)

PHOEBE repairs.

Your 0936B/23. Reply is contained in A.M. 1053A/18 and A.M. 1244A/20. Present arrangement is the most expeditious owing to extensive electrical repairs required.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1327A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk Raid, mines.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587/40. (A) 24/9 cumulus. (B) between 0427 and 0517. 13 aircraft. No Moon (C) and (D) Parachute mines, 3 non-parachute mines sewn in harbour. (E) to 270, 731.
(B.N.O. Tobruk, 1331B/24 to Admty.)

Syrian Ports, VIKINGS, REINE DES FLOTS.

My 0056A/19/8, 0106A/19/8 and related Signals. Request report whether there have been further developments in regard to control of Syrian Ports. Adm. Muselier has approached Admiralty again in regard to transfer to Syria of VIKINGS and REINE DES FLOTS. Would you welcome arrival of these ships, or would you prefer us to request their employment off West Africa where their services are needed? He also wishes to transfer 2nd. Bn. of Fusiliers Marins from Pointe Noire to Beirut. Have you any objection?
(V.C.N.S., 1413A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Turkey.

Discussion of possibility of German attack on Turkey, and probable air strength.
(W.O., 1615/24 to C. in C. M.E.)
See Lion Copy.

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Raid. Night 23/24, short alert 2353/0030 hours. 1 raider approached coast, incendiaries dropped in sea. 2 Hurricanes up no illuminations or interceptions.

Tripoli bombed. Night 23/24. 8 Wellingtons attacked shipping Tripoli. Bursts observed in middle and around target area.
(H.Q., Malta, 1732/24.)

Oil Transport to Malta in S/M's. Petrol has been carried to Malta in certain internal oil fuel tanks of submarines proceeding from Gibraltar or Alexandria. Considered this should not be a routine procedure but only be carried out in emergency in view of risks entailed. Request C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., S.1., S.8 may be informed accordingly.
(F.O.S., 1747A/24 to Admty.)

TETRARCH, OSIRIS. TETRARCH's 2335B/23. If MacNab not embarked on this occasion inform Lawrence submarine most probably OSIRIS on next return trip from Malta will repeat present operation on night 17-18 and 18-19/?10. All arrangements times and places of showing flag are to be rigidly observed and great care is to be taken that flag is not sighted by patrols and operation compromised thereby.
(Capt. S.1., 1927B/24 to OSIRIS. Amended 0815B/25.)

Enemy M/V's. One Tanker and one small steamer reported anchored in port Panormos, Stampalia Island, at 1115B/24.
(Capt. S.1., 1945B/24 to TORBAY.)

Majorca. No material change, but ineffective B.B.C. denial of Italy's claim at Gibraltar has created bad impression.
(Consul, Palma, Majorca, T.H.I. 2010/24 to Admty.)

2 supply ships with destroyer and air escort expected to pass through position 360° Benghazi 175 at 0515Z/24 approaching on final course 131°.
(Capt. S.1., 2051B/24 to PERSEUS, THRASHER.)

CANADA, COLOMBIE. Routes of Vichy Hospital Ship CANADA and Troop COLOMBIE. Do not molest.
(Capt. S.1., 2235B/24 to TORBAY, etc.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### China.

**Shanghai cargoes, interference.** F.O. telegram 1139/11/9 to Tokyo. In view of further interference with cargoes from Shanghai reported in Shanghai telegram 869, 23/9, to F.O. suggest we continue to hold cargo ex STAR OF EGYPT at Singapore pending report by air mail solution of all(?outstanding) difficulties regarding Government stores. (C. in C. China, 0853Z/24 to Admty).

**Repatriations.** Your 0631/23. Regret no accommodation for Annamite troops was available in NIEUW ZEALAND, the ship concerned. (Head of M., 1205A/24 to C. in C. China)

**U.S. South Pacific Force.** Your 0313Z/1. Dutch authorities are being informed by United States.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1532A/24 to C. in C. China).

**Dutch Co-operation.** Your 0327/29/6.
A. Provisions of ABC - 1 para 14 (e) have now been altered for operations in North Atlantic and following order is in force whenever it is necessary for ships to co-operate tactically.
(Begins) The S.N.O. by rank or time in grade co-ordinates tactical action provided his identity is clear to C.O.s of the other units concerned. If identity of S.N.O. is not clear, the C.O. of the force first perceiving the need for joint tactical action will co-ordinate the action of all forces which are present or may later join. (ends).
B. In order to ensure uniformity request you will modify your arrangements with the Dutch to conform to above; no objection to method of identifying S.N.O. if desired.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2348A/24 to C. in C. China).

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies.

ARAWAK on fire, abandoned.

Following report received at 2030Z/23 from U.S. Coast Guard. Ship on fire at sea approx. position 029° 42' N., 080° 46' W., crew abandoned ship which is probably ARAWAK and total loss. (N.C.S.O. Jacksonville, 0220Z/24 to Admty). My 0220Z/24. Confirming ARAWAK total loss, all passengers and crew saved uninjured. Loss due to fire in kerosene stove in galley spreading quickly and uncontrollable owner insured in U.S.A. (Jacksonville (Flo). 1815Z/24 to Admty).

FURIOUS.

After fuelling at Bermuda proceed via Turks Island passage to Kingston, Jamaica, to arrive as early as possible 1/10 to disembark aircraft torpedoes, stores etc in accordance with Admty., 2224A/2. N.O.I.C. Kingston (Jam) is requested to inform FURIOUS direct of arrangements made for disembarking and is to sail FURIOUS for Philadelphia on completion, reporting E.T.A. at Overfalls L/V Delaware. River entrance, to BRITMAN Washington repeated C. in C. A.W.I. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1152Q/24 to FURIOUS amended 0932Q/25).

GLADIOLUS, DIANTHUS.

B.A.R.M.'s 1636R/22. Regret no other R.N. corvette is available to accompany GLADIOLUS. Therefore approved for C.C.N.F. to sail GLADIOLUS and DIANTHUS singly to Charleston in accordance with his 1348Z/23. (D.O.D. (H) 1244A/24 to B.A.R.M., C.C.N.F.)
A.M.1815A/23. Intend sending DIANTHUS, but please see my 1348Z/23. Relief not required vide my 1437Z/23. (C.C.N.F., 1424Z/24 to Admty).

ALMIRANTE, LATORRE.

My 1130B/6/6. Report whether any progress has been made in the negotiations, and what the prospects are. (N.I.D. 1343A/24 to N.A. Santiago) Reply: 1736/24. (Negotiations proceeding).

R.C.N. Corvettes.

A.C.I.C.'s 2236/23. Request ships of N.E.F. now in Iceland be sailed with O.N.19. In view of release of all R.N. Corvettes in N.E.F. every available R.C.N. Corvette is required in this force. (C.C.N.F. 1425Z/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

/T.C.14.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America & West Indies.

T.C.14. — Cancel my 2121Z/23. Your 0133/24 and D.S.T.O. Simonstown 1501B/22. It is being assumed that ORCADES will not be available. Sailing date of T.C.14 will then be 8/10 or as soon after as MONARCH OF BERMUDA can be fuelled and embarked. Request approval. Do you wish ORDUNA, 14 knots, due Halifax 27/9 with accommodation still left for 1250 to be included in this convoy? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1514Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

S.C.46. escort. — Escort for S.C.46 is to consist of at least 8 ships, if necessary using Corvettes in Newfoundland local force. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1533Z/24 to C.C.N.F.)
OTTAWA will be detached from escort of S.C.46 in order to return to St. John's N.F. arriving dawn/5/10. (C.C.N.F., 1541Z/24, to C. in C. Atlantic (U.S.) Admty).
Your 1533Z/24. ALGOMA is only remaining ship available at St. John's N.F. for escort S.C.46 and will be added group 4.1.12? This will bring total to 8 until detachment of OTTAWA, vide my 1541Z/24. (C.C.N.F., 1749Z/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM. — My 1322R/6. Completion date of PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM is 15/10. Ships ready to sail P.M. /18. To where should ships be sailed? (B.A.R.M., 1604R/24 to Admty).

FORTH — Portsmouth N.H. arrived FORTH 2130/23 sailed for Boston. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1730Z/24 to Admty).

CITY OF WINDSOR. — Your 1553R/20. CITY OF WINDSOR arrived Halifax 16/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1907Z/24 to S.O.(I) Kingston)

KUNIKAWA MARU. — Sailed Zorritos 12/9 or 13/9 having loaded 500 tons Diesel. Called (XMAICJ) (as received) but no further report. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, T.H.I., 2115/24 to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

LORRAINE. — My 0845Z/23. (1845Z/23 from Galveston Texas intended Re French tanker LORRAINE) Ship arrived in Port named today. (Galveston, Texas, 2230/24 to Admty).

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### Australia & New Zealand.

STUART, VOYAGER, VAMPIRE, VENDETTA.

4 Australian destroyers are at present disposed as follows: STUART and VOYAGER in Australia for refit, each estimated to be ready for service about end of January, 1942, VAMPIRE refitting Singapore and should be ready for service about the end of October. VENDETTA in Mediterranean. Request views on their future dispositions before matter is considered here, having regard to recommendations of Anglo-Dutch Australian conference at Singapore February, 1941. Unless situation in Far East shows further signs of deteriorating I would not propose they should remain here unless you think age of vessels makes retention here desirable.
(1st Naval Member, 1218Z/24 to Admty for 1.S.L.)

MANOORA, KANIMBLA.

Your 0205Z/20. Admiralty welcomes your proposal for exchange of MANOORA and KANIMBLA so that KANIMBLA may return to Australia and give leave after nearly two years' valuable service away from her home waters. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1331A/24 to A.C.N.B.)

Suspicious Ship.

Following received in Merchant Navy Code (begins) 23/9 1400 G.M.T. 014° 52' S., 129° 11' W., sighted Motor Vessel suspicious, DENBIGHSHIRE. (ends). (D.D.I.C., 1341A/24 to N.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

## U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

### Ships Attacked.

| | |
|---|---|
| HJELMAREN. (sunk 16/9.) | A survivor of Greek PEGASUS, torpedoed and sunk 16/9, reports that U/boat crew boarded the Swedish HJELMAREN, 2467 tons, which was near by (approx. 54.31N., 29.52 W.), and that she sank shortly afterwards as result of an explosion. HJELMAREN bound from Aberdeen to Tampa. (D.S.750, 24/9.) |
| NEWBURY (torpedoed 15/9.) | Area searched unsuccessfully for survivors. Ship presumed to have sunk. (D.S.750.) |
| MONTANA (torpedoed 11/9.) | Is presumed sunk. 2 boatloads of survivors were seen leaving ship about 1 hour after attack, but nothing since heard of them. (D.S.750.) |
| S.C.42. | List of sinkings 9/9 to 16/9. (D.T.D., 1713A/24.) See Shipping and Convoys. |
| S.L.87. ST.CLAIR II, 4 other ships. | Correct my 2235Z/23 to read 030° 25' N., 023° 35' W. ST.CLAIR II leading ship starboard column, sank immediately, only casualty. Master and 25 in GORLESTON, possibly 3 in LULWORTH. (GORLESTON, 0130/24, to Admty.) ST.CLAIR II, British, 3753 tons, bound from Lagos to Liverpool with palm kernels. (D.S.750, 24/9.) Incomplete signal received from GORLESTON at 0055A/24, T.O.O. 2235Z/23 indicating S.L.87 attacked in 30° 25' N., 20° 35' W. (D.C. 0145A/24, 0310A/24 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.S.A., C. in C.W.A.) S.L.87 attacked, 4 ships torpedoed, my position at 0441Z, 031° 12' N., 023° 32'. (BIDEFORD, 0500Z/24 to C. in C.W.A.) |

### Submarines Reported.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1040 G.M.T./ 23. | Your 0933/23 and N.C.S.O.Curacao's 1020/23. Request further details. (D.D.I.C. 0036A/24 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Your 0336A/23. (N.T. in W.D.,0036A/24 intended?) N.C.S.O. Curacao 1500QR/23 partially explains his 1020QR/23. It appears probable all sightings coming from DIALA which in her original report stated time of sailing on surface and dived immediately I grade DIALA's report A.3. DIALA will be investigated on arrival at Curacao. (C. in C.A.W.I., 0231Q/24 to Admty.) |

/S.L.87.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

S.L.87. My 2136A. (N.T.in W.D.) Further bearings indicate that U-Boat was in vicinity of Convoy SL.87, in approx., 30° 00' N., 24° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0102A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.S.A.)

23/9. My 2323A/23. (N.T.in W.D.). Further bearings place U-Boat within 150 miles of 12° 00' N., 27° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0437A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.S.A.)

2232C/23. At 2232C/23 by D/F U-Boat in 069° 37' N., 037° 50' E. Admiralty pass LONDON, ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 0841C/24, to Admty.)

0038Z. Bearing indicated German U.Boat within 120 miles 035° 00' N., 024° 00' W., at 0038Z/24.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0945A/24 to N.A.Stn.)

0256C. Enemy Submarine sighted 0256C/24 off Cape Cherni, 068° 23'N., 038° 39'E.(B.2.) Admiralty pass to LONDON and ELECTRA.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 1244C/24, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1430A/24.)

1325/23. Intercept 23/9, 1325, San Juan, Porto Rico, reports "Two American Ships working on 468 Kcs. Hear them say position of SSS was 10.20 N.,54.50W." Seems probable that SSS should be interpreted to mean Submarine and not Submarine Distress Signal.
(O.P.N.A.V. 1622/24, to Admty.)

1448Z. D/F bearings at 1448Z/24 indicate that there may be a U-boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1647A/24 to HIGHLANDER, FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

2010C. By D/F, enemy submarine 2010 C./24 068° 16' N., 041° 38' E. Admiralty pass to ELECTRA and LONDON.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk, 2147C/24, to Admty.)

/1040 G.M.T./23....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.9.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1040 G.M.T. /23. Your 0933Q/23. Presumed this information was passed to Navy Dept., Washington, in accordance with para.1 of A.M. 1150/13. (2) When such action is taken request you will so indicate in your signals.
(A.C.N.S.(I) 2257/24, to C. in C.A.M.I.)

0015/23. S/M reported in 061° 04' N., 011° 20' W., at 0015/23 by Icelandic Ship, course N.E., graded C.3.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2307/24, to S and A., Orkneys and Shetlands, etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By MOOSEJAW, CHAMBLY, 10/9. Their Lordships congratulate you on the destruction of a German U-boat on 10/9/1941.
(1st. S.L., 2139A/24 to MOOSEJAW, CHAMBLY.)

MOST SECRET.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Fog delayed sweeping for mines, and the Thames and Medway were not opened until 1025 today, Harwich was opened at 1529A.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. T.P. TILLING reports slight damage from air attack at 0350 today off Barrels Rock (Liverpool area). The attacking A/C appeared to be hit by her Hotchkiss fire.

Convoy F.S.2 was bombed at 1919 in 52° 54' N., 1° 36' E., but no damage is reported.

Great Yarmouth was bombed at 2005A. No Naval damage was caused.

ST. EUMAN reports having shot down an enemy aircraft off the Smalls at 1950.
At 1956 today an unknown ship later established to be S.S. SCHELDT reported being attacked off the Smalls. The ship was slightly damaged. At 2022 PALOMARES, escorting B.B.80 near the Smalls heavily engaged and possibly shot down an aircraft.

Mining.

Operation N.L.16 B.

3 M.L.'s from Dover laid mines last night off the French coast.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft this evening off the Suffolk coast and in Thames Estuary was suspected this evening.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Palermo bombed.

6 Aircraft from Malta bombed Palermo harbour last night. Air R/C reported 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers and 2 T.B's in the harbour.

Blenheims at 1805 today obtained 3 hits on a 3,000 ton merchant ship 32 miles N. of Cotrone; the aircraft remained in the neighbourhood and saw the ship almost sunk.

Libya and Western Desert.

6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night, obtaining 6 hits on barges or dredgers.

Mines were dropped in Tripoli harbour this evening by Naval aircraft, Wellingtons and a Swordfish providing a diversion by bombing.

Tobruk harbour was attacked by aircraft today and some military casualties were caused.

U-Boat Campaign.

The Admiralty appreciation is that some of the U-boats from St. Pauls Rocks area are now moving homewards, probably passing outside Cape Verde Islands.

CLYDE was ordered at 1004 to proceed towards the northwestern end of Cape Verde Islands.

Several Italian submarines have passed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean since the end of August. There is no evidence of any traffic in the reverse direction.

/Attack.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign. - Contd.

Attack on H.G.73.

Convoy H.G.73 was attacked at 0548 about 450 miles North of the Azores by one U-boat. EMPIRE STREAM was sunk. In view of bad visibility and possibility of daylight attack all escorts were ordered to rejoin at 0658.
The convoy was attacked again at 2233 today in 47° 40' N., 24° 7' W. There were two attacks at 2 hour intervals. In the first attack it is reported that two ships were hit and in the second three ships. Ships torpedoed were AVOCETA and VARANGBERG in the first attack, and CORTES, LAPWING and PETREL in the second attack (about 0030/26). It is reported that one of these is little damaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Policy.

**Flag of C.S.1**

Flag of R.A.C. 1st C.S. was transferred to NORFOLK a.m./25. (C.S.1 1714/25.)

**ROYAL SOVEREIGN.**

Some delay can be accepted in the completion date of R.D/F. installation for ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
2. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is however required as escort for convoy leaving U.K. about 1/11, and it is intended that she should carry out practices at Scapa before sailing.
3. She must therefore be ready to sail from the Clyde not later than 15/10.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1743A/25.)

### Co-operation with U.S.A.

**Communication arrangements.**

Your 2054/24 and 0711/25. Admiralty fully appreciate that in emergency it may be necessary to depart from the rule given in para.1 of A.M.1150A/13.
For the present however such departure should rarely be made.
Information intended for U.S. escorts must be passed to Admiralty who will take the necessary action to inform U.S. authorities.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2036A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

### Co-operation with Russia.

**Information for C. in C. Med.**

Admiral Miles 1029C/24 (submarine patrol report) has been passed to C. in C. Med. for information at D.N.I's request. (H.W.R. 25/9)

**Proposed appointment of B.N.L.O. at Vladivostock.**

Your 1415A/24. I had only visualised Powells visit East as a temporary instructional one and not as N.L.O. At Vladivostock, Soviet Naval Authorities have only agreed in principle to exchange officers being sent to Black Sea Fleet. Better wait until after the forthcoming Economic Conference has finished before putting request forward. Request your views particularly as to the nature of Powells visit.
(Ad. Miles 1014C/24 to Adty.)

### Defence of U.K.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 0850A/25.)

**One Man landed.**

One man claiming to be Free Frenchman landed in canoe near St. Albans Hd. Thick fog.
Both now in hands of Military and Police.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0850A/25, 1043A/25.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Movements.

MINERVE. — Is to be withdrawn from patrol after dark/27 and is to return to Dundee. (F.O.S.1101A/25.) Leave patrol passing through 061° 45' N. 003° 30' E. at 2200A/27 thence through following positions diving by day, arriving Bell Rock 0800A/1 Oct. T.B.Rs arranged. (Capt. S.9 1745A/25 to MINERVE.)

P.35. — P.35 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE Northbound in The Minches may be passed during the night. (C. in C. W.A. 2101A/25 to Escort E.C.76.)

State of H.F. Destroyers. — At 2000/25. (R.A.D.2258A/25) See Lion Copy.

### Operations.

R-Boats off Calais on 24/9. — R.D.F. plotted several vessels at 2011 yesterday off Calais proceeding westwards. M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs sent to intercept were withdrawn before contact was made, as there were indications that vessels were 6 R-boats who were aware of the presence of our forces in their vicinity. (V.A. Dover 0947A/25.)

Operation E.J. — Arrived C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, AURORA and destroyers at 1400. (A.C.I.C. 1509/25.)

Operation "Foremost". — SEALION reports Operation carried out satisfactorily. (F.O.S. 1932A/25.)

Convoy P.Q.1 — Scapa departures SUFFOLK, IMPULSIVE, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY. (A.C.O.S. 1950/25 to A.C.I.C.)

### British Air Activity.

Portsmouth Command. Fighter protection signals. — A.275 25/9. Your 1127A/23. The commitments for other Naval Commands are arranged on receipt of request for fighter protection signals and intend to sail signals are not being repeated to 10 Group. It is suggested that your Command also adopt this procedure. (H.Q. 10 Group 1420/25 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/A/C in ARGUS

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - contd.

A/C in ARGUS.

Request report (1) whether you can transfer 12 Albacores by air to another carrier in one range, if necessary with reduced load.
(3) Whether all pilots of 828 are trained in deck landing. (D.N.A.D. 1901A/25 to ARGUS.)
Your 1901A/25. (1) Yes, but Albacore cannot be ranged without removing main and tail planes, and re-erection on flight deck is considered impracticable under ocean conditions. Suggest Albacores could be thus transferred if carried erect on flight deck but, under these conditions, no A/C can be operated during outward passage.
(3) Pilots unknown, further signal will be made. (ARGUS 2215A/25.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship.

Received 1909 G.M.T. automatic AAAA bearing 294°, strength 2/3. Bearing unreliable. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0810/25 and 2025/25.)

Rattray Head Light (bombed 20/9.)

My 1524/20. Rattray Head Light has been repaired and is again available for exhibition. (Northern Lighthouse Board 1230/25) (C. in C. Rosyth 1241/25.)

T.P.TILLING damaged.

Reports being attacked with M/G by twin-engined German seaplane at 0350/25 off Barrels Rock, No casualties, slight damage. Ship fired twenty rounds Hotchkiss and appeared to hit. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1819A/25.)

Convoy F.S.2.

Convoy F.S.2 being bombed in 52° 54' N. 1° 36' E. (LIDDESDALE 1919/25.)

Iceland.

Enemy aircraft probably Heinkel 111 visited Iceland (C) today. Times of sighting from 0740 to 0937 as follows. Details. Visibility generally bad. Considered value of enemy R/C slight. (C.O.C. Iceland 1923/23 to War Office.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Mining.

| | |
|---|---|
| Convoy ON.M 20. DALTONHALL (British, 7253 Tons) damaged on 24/9. | A/S Trawler SPHENE reports DALTONHALL damaged by mine in 006° Skokholm 3½ miles at 2030A/24. Ship reached Holyhead under own steam escorted by SPHENE and passed S.G. 3 buoy at 2220A/24. Extent of damage and type of mine at present unknown. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0017/25, 0245/25, N.C.S.O. Holyhead 1541A/25.) |
| NL.12. | Intend to carry out operation N.L.12 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1225A/25.) Cancel my 1225 owing to fog. (V.A. Dover 2226A/25) |
| Operation "Tincture" (Nymph Bank) | Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./29th in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9. (V.C.N.S. 1257A/25 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.) |
| Milford Haven. | At 1523/25 one Green Mine detonated by Sweepers. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1729/25.) |
| P.W.20. | My 2232A/23. P.W.20 may be carried out by 2 M.Ls if available before M.T.Bs. (C. in C. Nore 1814/25 to BEEHIVE.) |

### Enemy Intelligence.

| | |
|---|---|
| SEALION reports for 16,17,18 and 22/9. | SEALION reports that at 0905/16 naval craft of approx. 1000 tons passed close to Penmarch Point on a South Easterly course out of range. Night 17/18, A/S or M/S activity by trawlers in vicinity 46° 50' N. 03° 18' W. and in same position on night 21/22. At 1345/22 large M/V southbound passed out of range inside Glenans. (F.O.S. 1932A/25.) |
| E-Boats. | Indication of possible E-Boats Sheringham Buoy 2205 moving N.E. (C. in C. Nore 2245/25.) |

### Miscellaneous.

| | |
|---|---|
| Thames and Medway. | Thames and Medway are remaining closed owing to fog delaying sweeping operations. (X.D.O. Sheerness 0620/25.) My 0620/25. Thames and Medway now open. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1050/25.) |
| Harwich. | Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1529A/25.) |

/Haisborough

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous - contd.

Haisborough South Middle Buoy.

Haisborough South Middle Buoy and Hammond Knoll Light and Whistle Buoy both have the same Character light. In the Would, Hammond Knoll Buoy can sometimes be seen before Haisborough South Middle and could be mistaken for it, leading to disastrous consequences on the Haisborough Sands. Suggest that character of Haisborough South Middle Buoy should be altered. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1727A/25.)

Casualties and Defects.

RIPLEY (Grounded 4/9.)

My 2102A/24. RIPLEY sailed at 1120/25. E.T.A. Flamboro' 2300/25. 19 buoy 0600/26. 19 D Buoy 0930/26. (F.O. Humber 1134A/25) (C. in C. Nore 1459A/25.)

WITHERINGTON, AMBUSCADE.

Captain D. Greenock's 1907/5.
1. AMBUSCADE can be taken in hand in Portsmouth dockyard.
2. To reduce to C & M for period of repairs.
3. 15/10.
(D.O.D.H. 1519A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

AVRA (Greek 4652 Tons) sunk.

S O S MARVIA off Duncansby Head. Collision. (MARVIA No T.O.O. Recd 2117/25.)
Cancel my distress. (MARVIA T.O.R 2122/25.)
Collided with unknown ship. Other ship sinking fast. MARVIA standing by. (MARVIA 2144/25.)
I have ordered MINUET to investigate MARVIA and unknown ship, possibly 1 of rear ships of E.C.77. Request lights. (JASON 2205/25 to A.C.O.S.)
QUENTIN ROOSEVELT has picked up all survivors. Sunken ship is AVRA. Lifeboat is searching round Duncansby Head. Propose resuming my course to join convoy. (MINUET 2340A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

BEREBY (Grounded 24/9)

My 0641A/24. All crew from BEREBY landed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2215A/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25.9.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

## HOME COMMANDS.

### Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.43 — Arrived safely under Cdre. H.W. Poole, R.N.R., 55 ships, including 21 Allied and 2 Neutral. 9 tankers. Other cargoes. (D.S., 751 25/9) (C. in C. W.A. 1812/25.)

BARAM. — C. in C. Rosyth's 1125/24. In view of your 1206/16. I consider BARAM, 499 tons, which regularly arrives from Leith with essential military stores, should be escorted between Orkneys and Faroes especially when northbound and loaded. Request you arrange to divert her to Kirkwall accordingly. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1201/25 to A.C.O.S.)

F.N., F.S., E.C. — My 1836A/22/9. Throughout for GUILLEMOT read SHEARWATER for SHEARWATER read MALLARD. For MALLARD read SHELDRAKE. For SHELDRAKE read PUFFIN. For PUFFIN read WIDGEON. For WIDGEON read SHEARWATER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1226a/25.)

OG.M 75.
BURZA. — Request you will sail BURZA in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1150A/25. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1258A/25 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
Your 1258A/25. BURZA has instructions to part company with OG.M 75 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1150A/25. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1831A/25 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

H.G.73
WOLVERINE. — WOLVERINE is to be sailed South of Ireland a.m./26 to meet H.G.73. Meet Signal follows.
(C. in C. W.A. 2228A/25 to Capt. D. Liverpool)
Ship sunk in H.G.73, see U-Boat Campaign.
Intend to sail WOLVERINE at 1130/26 to meet H.G.73. Routed by route K. to position K. thence by Q.Z.F.18. Speed 18 knots. Fighter protection code word "Junction". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2321/25.)

CLYDE — Proceed immediately at best speed towards N.W. end of Cape Verde Islands. Further instructions follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1901A/25 to CLYDE)
Report No 3. 1957A/25. (1) DORINTHIAN on patrol N.W. 3a (11) CLYDE proceeding from Canary Islands to (?Cape Verde Is.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1228A/25 to S.N.O., N.A. Station.)

/MAJOR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1941.
Thursday

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### General

**Conveyance of Service Personnel.**

A.M. 1744B/16/7 para 2 is to be amended. Maximum for any one Service or Department or for Prisoners of War is as follows, the total number of passengers, government or otherwise in any ship being limited to the numbers allowed by her passenger certificate:- Navy, Army, R.A.F. and Merchant Seamen, 150 each. Colonial and other passengers, 100. Prisoners of War without limit except as set by limitations of numbers of guards (not less than 7%)
3. This supersedes Admty. 1935B/4/8 and 1848/22/8.
4. In A.M. 1743/21/8 to C. in C. East Indies and F.O.C.R.I.N. only, for 100 read 150.
Agreed with services concerned.
(4th S.L. 1936A/25 to C's in C. etc.)

### North Atlantic

**Mines, Sardinia**

B. 2. report states:- (a) mines have been laid in the Gulf of Oristano, Sardinia, in 3 lines: first line magnetic mines, second and third lines contact mines laid from Cape Frasca in direction 348° and from Cape San Marco in direction 205°
(b) between C. Pecora and C. Frasca and from C. Mannu to Alghero, the coast is fortified by earth works and concrete pill boxes.
(c) Minefields, operated from the shore, have been laid along both banks of the river Tirso between Gulf of Oristano and Colle del Tirso and the Tirso Dam has been mined. Depots of mines, are established on the river banks.
(D.N.I. 0958A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

**CLYDE**

Proceed immediately at best speed towards N.W. end of Cape Verde Islands. Further instructions follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1004A/25 to CLYDE)
Report No 3. 1957A/25. (1) CORINTHIAN on patrol H.X. 3. (11) CLYDE proceeding from Canary Islands to (?Cape Verde Is.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1222A/25 to S & A., N.A. Station.)

/MARON.....

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| MARON | Departure MARON for areas R. 1. and S. 1. escorted by LADY SHIRLEY, ERIN. Escort part company at 0800/28 to R/V with tanker LA CARRIERE for Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1342A/25 to Admty. S.O.W.P.) |
| THORN TRUANT | (1) THORN report P. C. and S. of A. after dark/26 thence through position (S) 038° 00' 010° 30' (T) 036° 35' 009° 00' (U) 350° Spartel 10 miles. T.B.R. arranged. (11) TRUANT after passing 035° 52' 008° 08' to R/V with THORN and an escort in position (U) at 1800A/28. (111) Both submarines are to report during the night of 27/28 if unable to reach R/V within one hour of time ordered. (F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/25 to THORN, TRUANT) |
| B.D.V's. | BARSTOKE, BARONIA, BARBOUR, CONSBRO, GRAAF VAN VLANDEREN sailed 25th E.T.A. Fayal 5/10. Requirements. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1442A/25 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada) |
| H.G. 74. | C. in C. W.A. 0026A/11 para 5. Please confirm corvettes are to return with H.G. 74 in view of Admty. 1155A/24/8 para 2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1446A/25 to C. in C. W.A.) |
| MARIA BELMATTI (Spanish) | My 1630/29/8. Understand sailing vessel mentioned would load petrol or gas oil fuel ex ISONZO lying at Rio de Oro. (Las Palmas, 1550/25 to Admty.) |
| NESTOR | Admty. 1824A/17. NESTOR sails 0800A/26, S.O.A. 15½ knots. E.T.A. in position (C) 043° 00' N., 017° 00' W. is 0800A/28. Request Admty. communicate name of refitting Port and C. in C. W.A. onward route from position (C). (F.O.C.N.A., 1714A/25) |
| Operation "Halberd" | 233 Squadron, 3 Hudsons escort Force "Halberd" dawn till dusk. Area covered 36.12 N., 04.00 N., to 36.45 N., 01.05 W. (200 Group, 1745/25) |

/IMPERIALIST....

## FOREIGN STATIONS

### North Atlantic-Contd.

IMPERIALIST — Ref. 1147A/25 from F.O.C.N.A. (N.T. in W.D.) R/V 1800/26 position 036° 15' N., 007° 00' W. (ALOUETTE, 2100A/25 to IMPERIALIST)

### South Atlantic

156 M/S Group. — Your 1905/4. Movements of M/S Group 156 as follows since leaving Freetown GOS VII, KOS X, KOS XI proceeded to Lagos where they spent 12 days alongside Apapa Wharf, thence to Walvis Bay remaining there 24 hours. KOS XII proceeded from Freetown to St. Helena and Walvis Bay rejoining remainder of Group there. Thence all sailed in company to Capetown. First case of Malaria appeared 2 days after leaving Lagos. No cases of fever in KOS XII. Hem Fever apparently contracted at Apapa Wharf which is on West side of River and close to extensive Mangrove Swamp. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0858B/25 to Admty.)

M/S Groups 156,157,158. — Your 1528/20. Following is information available to me. Group 156. GOS VII and KOS XII sailed from Durban 21/9 for Kilindini. KOS X and XI in Capetown delayed (A) by Sickness of crew and (B) essential repairs. Both vessels will sail by 28/9. Group 157. GOS II and III on passage Kilindini to Karachi. KOS VIII and IX. Nothing known beyond N.O.I.C. Greenock 2304/2. Group 158. CORDELIA, NOURSE and LORD IRWIN in Capetown expected to sail end of Sept. and early October. Essential repairs in hand. LORINDA sunk vide C. in C. S.A. 1151/20/8. NOBLE NORA Group. NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA and JOHN WILLIAMSON sailed from Beira 22/9. EGELAND in hand for repairs at Lourenco Marques to be completed by 25th. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0945B/25 to Admty.)

/Force F.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### South Atlantic-Contd.

**Force F.**

Force F consisting DORSETSHIRE and EAGLE are operating in K. 35 A and B extending to Westward about this latitude as far as endurance allows. Expected to return to St. Helena shortly.
(C. in C. S.A., 1037N/25, 1425N/25 to R.A.S.A.D.)

**W.S. 11.**

DERBYSHIRE is to continue with W.S. 11 for the present and may be required to escort Cape portion of convoy to Durban.
(C. in C. S.A. 1201N/25 to DERBYSHIRE)

**ALCANTARA
BIRMINGHAM
BULOLO**

You are to enter Rio de Janeiro at 1230 G.M.T./1/10 for 24 hours (?and) embark 500 tons fuel. R/V with BIRMINGHAM at South end of "Percival" at 1300 G.M.T./3 to embark stores ex oiler ABBEYDALE and your mail. Oiler ARNDALE is due "Percival" 3/10 from Trinidad. You will subsequently proceed Tristan da Cunha and Simonstown. BIRMINGHAM leaves Plate 29/9 for K32 and return South to meet BULOLO at F.O. on her arrival from Cape. BULOLO reports E.T.A. when known.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1303Z/25 to ALCANTARA) Cancelled, see 0013/26)

**Lobito**

Request arrangements may be made for 3 H.M. Trawlers to coal at Lobito about 7/10. Ships will require about 100 tons coal and 20 tons water each.
(C. in C. S.A., 1337N/25 to Consul-Gen., Loanda)

**W.S. 11.**

My 1955/24 and your 0810/25/9. I will arrange. DERBYSHIRE will continue with W.S. 11 instead of to patrol and will escort Capetown and to Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 1623N/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

**DERBYSHIRE
BULOLO
ALCANTARA
CARNARVON CASTLE**

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1715B/21 and other relevant signals. Following movements to take place: (a) DERBYSHIRE to accompany W.S. 11 to Capetown and subsequently escort Cape portion to Durban.
(b) BULOLO leave Simonstown 28/9 arriving Tristan da Cunha 3/10 visiting Nightingale Island and sails as soon as possible after to join S.A.Div. and W.I. Sqdn.
(c) ALCANTARA to arrive Tristan da Cunha 4/10 or 5th latest, thence to Simonstown, my 1431/25 refers
(d) CARNARVON CASTLE to relieve BULOLO when repairs are completed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1627N/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.)

/DACIA.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 88. Your 1121N/24. Admiralty appreciation is that some U-Boats from Saint Paul Rocks area are now moving homewards probably passing outside Cape Verde Islands. In view of this, considered preferable to divert S.L. 88 through 15° 00' N., [illegible] to position D.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1926A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mines Mundahu — N.C.S.O. Para's 1505/25 is being passed to you.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2009Z/25 to Admty.)
W.R. Note. Re advise Royal Netherlands S.S. Line that mines are off Mundahu. (N.T. in W.D.)

Corvettes refits — Your 1407N/24. Limited refitting arrangements available to your command are appreciated and it can be accepted that about half of the 8 corvettes returning to W. Approaches will require an early refit. Urgent need for escorts in W. Approaches at present time makes it necessary to request you to advance the arrangements for sailing these corvettes to U.K. C. in C. W.A. 1615A/13 provides for sailing of 8 corvettes by 15/10 and it is requested that, in addition to GARDENIA and VERVAIN, already sailed, you will consider sailing 3 corvettes with S.L. 89 leaving about 4/10, sailing 3 corvettes with S.L. 90 leaving about 14/10.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2351A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean

MONSELET (French) — Vichy news agency states MONSELET, 3372 tons, with phosphates from Sfax, was bombed, caught fire, and sank in Gulf of Gabes, Tunis Coast, on 20/9. Crew rescued and taken to Sfax.
(D.S. 751, 25/9.)

MACEDONIA
HANS ARP
(German) — Arrived Trieste on 20/9 from Greece. Arrived Trieste 22/9 believed from Yugoslav port.
(D.S. 751, 25/9.)

/DACIA.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| DACIA (Roumanian) | B. 2. report, in dock at Constanza after having been torpedoed. (D.S. 751, 22/9.) |
| Benghazi Bardia bombed. | Night 23/24, 6 Wellingtons bombed shipping and harbour at Benghazi. Direct hits exploded ship moored at outer Mole, debris being thrown 300 yards. Further bombs burst on outer Mole base of Central Mole and fell near ships moored to end of Central Mole. 4 F.A.A. Albacores bombed buildings near Bardia starting large fire. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1103/25) |
| U.S.A. Ships for M.E. | Military authorities, Middle East, have proposed to War Office that U.S.A. might be approached to provide shipping to replace British ships in Middle East, e.g. personnel ships, cargo ships, water boats, tugs, lighters, fast coasters, ferries, etc. (D.S.T. 1451A/25 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) |
| Enemy Supply Ship. | One small supply ship may have left Athens dawn/25 passing through Kaso Strait or Scarpanto Channel thence S.W. course to 031° 45' 025° 05'. (Capt. S. 1., 1501B/25 to TORBAY) |
| Enemy Convoy | Small escorted convoy from 032° 53' 013° 12' should arrive 032° 06' 020° 04' about 0600B/26. 2 supply ships leave latter position at 1900/25 course 294° for 4 hours thence northwards. Speed 9 knots. (Capt. S. 1. 1515B/25 to PERSEUS, THRASHER) |
| Turkey | Re certain ships for Turkey. (N.A. Angora, 1824B/25 (amended 1934B/26) to Admty) See Lion Copy. |
| French Seamen Alexandria | Your 2004/8. In view of possibility of a considerable number of French sailors at Alexandria rallying to Allied cause, none should be repatriated. It should also be made clear to Admiral Godfroy that this refusal is final. (Hd. of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1841A/25 to C. in C. Med.) |

/Hospital.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS

### Mediterranean-Contd.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hospital Ships. | Precautions to be taken for maintenance of order among prisoners of war. (W.O., 1855/25 to C. in C. M.E., etc.) |
| TRITON | Leave patrol p.m./27 and pass through Kasc Straits thence, direct to arrive Alexandria S/M Sanctuary 0530B/1. (Capt. S. 1. 1937B/25 to TRITON) |
| SAINT BRIEUX FRONSAC (French) | Arrival 23rd SAINT BRIEUX departure 23rd SAINT BRIEUX Site. Arrival 25th FRONSAC. (Barcelona, 2030/25, to M. of W.T.) |
| MAURO CROCE (Italian) | Left Cadiz evening 25th. (Valencia, 2100/25 to M. of W.T.) |
| Malta Raid | Night 24/15. Two alerts 2203-2236 and 2247-2255. Bombs dropped in sea, few on land. 2 Fighters up, no illuminations, no interceptions. No casualties or damage. (H.Q., Malta, 2230/25) |
| Tripoli bombed and mined. Palermo bombed. | Night 24/25. 6 Swordfish laid mines in Channel E. and N.E. Tripoli harbour 1905 to 1920 hours. 7 Swordfish and 2 Wellingtons provided lumination and diversion. Diversion very successful. Time over target 1840 to 1950 hours. 6 Wellingtons attacked harbour Palermo. Time over target 2010 to 2210 hours. Hits and large number fires started near dry docks North end harbour and shipbuilding yard. (H.Q., Malta, 2245/25) |

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

B.P.15. 0430Z/25, LANCASHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, NEURALIA (all Basra.)
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0438Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

CONFEDERATE. Your 1846/23 (salvage of GEORGIC). Grateful if CONFEDERATE could be sent to Massawa as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0458Z/25 to C. in C. Med.)

EXETER. Request you will sail EXETER for Mombasa as soon as convenient. EXETER is to report intended programme.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/25 to S.N.O.R.S.)
W.D. Note: EXETER escorting C.M.17 from Durban since 11/9.

ILEX. ILEX is unfit for sea until temporary repairs have been effected at Mombasa. Hope to sail ILEX for Durban about 2/10, in company with COLOMBO until through Mozambique channel or further if necessary.
(C. in C. E.I., 0736Z/25 to Admty.)

W.S.11 Escort. Your 1955/24. Only ship I could detail would be AUSTRALIA. She is now escorting MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM due Durban 2/10, and has to escort them North again from p.m./7 which is earliest date W.S.11 seems likely to arrive Durban. By (? omitting) her call at Durban on way South AUSTRALIA could fuel at Cape and be ready to take W.S.11 to Durban. On her return to Aden she will then have steamed some 8500 miles at high speed without any appreciable break since leaving that port. This is most undesirable if it can be avoided.
(C. in C. E.I., 0810Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1955/24 and your 0810/25/9. I will arrange. DERBYSHIRE will continue with W.S.11 instead of to patrol and will escort Capetown and to Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 1623N/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Iran Operations. My 1206Z/25. I hope to receive S.N.O.P.G's first report on Iran operations next week. On receipt intend to signal summary to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., A.C.N.B. Request approval for publication in India and Australia on receipt. Request whether action against Persian Warships should be published yet.
(C. in C. E.I., 1204Z/25 to Admty.)

/Policy.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### East Indies.

Iran Operations. Contd.: Policy regarding release of naval news when ships are taking part in combined operations. (C. in C. E.I., 1206Z/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Caspian.: Your 1720/15. Recommend Naval officer be appointed to join Army Mission already in Tiflis, would provide opportunity for appreciating naval situation in Caspian Sea. (C. in C. E.I., 1520Z/25 to Admty.)

WINDSOR CASTLE.: F.O.C.R.I.N. 1221/17. Lloyd Surveyor reports WINDSOR CASTLE unseaworthy except for short voyages in fair weather, permanent repairs impracticable at Bombay. Semi-permanent repairs require minimum 2 months including 4 weeks dry dock. (S.S.T.O. India, 1645Z/25 to D. of S.T.)

NEA HELLAS, VOLENDAM, INDRAPOERA, DUNERA.: D.S.T. 0349/17, C. in C. S.A. 0235N/23. (1) NEA HELLAS, VOLENDAM, INDRAPOERA expected dates available Berbera to embark (? 24th) Brigade former two 6/10, latter 9/10. 2. Middle East request they call Mombasa to embark details. 3. DUNERA is required to proceed Massawa, E.T.A. 5/10 to embark about 620 personnel calling Mombasa to embark further 500 all for Durban. After embarkation Massawa she is to be sailed to Aden subject to S.N.O. Red Sea concurrence to await (? convoy) with 24th Brigade vessels. 4. On completion embarkation Berbera NEA HELLAS, VOLENDAM to be sailed to Aden to await completion embarkation INDRAPOERA. 5. Request escort. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1821B/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

### China.

French Ships.: Arrival 24/9 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL MAURICE LONG. Departure 24/9 BOUGAINVILLE Haiphong. (Saigon, 0929Z/25 to M. of W.T.)

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

### America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE. — Entered Canal at 0800 (local time) 25/9. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1045/25 to Admty.)

GLADIOLUS, etc. — Your 1348Z/23. Request ships may come independently as soon as available but that I may be given expected dates of arrival. (B.A.R.M., 1120R/25 to C.C.N.F.)

Suspicious Ship. — N.C.S.O. Panama reports:- TEMERAIRE (Nor.) reports that at noon/12 in 027.57 S. 120.02 W. course 69° speed 13 knots heard unknown ship or station transmit series of V's strength 4, very strong D/F bearing due East. Transmitted for about 90? minutes with intervals on interrupted continuous wave 500 kc/s. medium modulation. At 2345 local time sighted unknown ship with full light steering 335-340. TEMERAIRE altered and vessel passed astern. 2107/24. (Ends.)
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1138Q/25 to Admty., etc.)

FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS. — Your 0300A/14. Completion dates and arrangements.
(B.A.R.M. 1144R/25 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

S.C.46 OTTAWA. — My 1541C/24. OTTAWA has now been ordered to continue with S.C.46 to prudent limit of endurance returning to St. John's, N.F. not later than 7/10.
(C.C.N.F., 1231Z/25 to C. in C. A.F.(U.S.))

CLARKIA, TULIP. — Intend to sail CLARKIA and TULIP from Bermuda for Trinidad a.m./28.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1232Q/25 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, etc.)

RIMOUSKI. — Your 1840/18. Request nature and extent of repairs required by RIMOUSKI. Ship urgently required for duty St. John's, N.F. by 8/10 and intend to divert ship to St. John's, N.F. if repairs are within scope of local facilities.
(C.C.N.F., 1232Z/25 to A.C.I.C.)

/AUSONIA.....

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

AUSONIA. — Intend to sail AUSONIA from Bermuda for Halifax on 29/9 to arrive 1/10.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1302Q/25 to R.A.3.)

Dakar, Casablanca. — Movements of French Shipping.
(B.A.D., 1655R/25.)
See Lion Copy.

Atlantic Convoy Routes, Escorts. — (1) Admty. 2141A/18. No comments.
(2) C.N.S. Canada 1407Z/22. (A) I have always felt the advantages of the southerly route in winter, assuming that wide diversion is employed.
(B) Present intention is to meet both H.X. and S.C. Convoys by escorts sailed from Iceland. I shall normally have only short-leg destroyers available for the purpose and fuelling between convoys will therefore be essential in winter.
(C) It would help me considerably if the "Meet" for S.C. convoys were in about 22° W. but if the "Meet" is below 56° N. in this longitude it becomes more economical to use Londonderry as a refuelling base. With a meet further West I could not guarantee covering the convoy with destroyers.
(D) Any short-leg destroyers which can be spared from Canada could be usefully employed in Western Approaches, observing that I must base escort system for O.N., H.X., and S.C. Convoys on short-leg destroyers owing to other commitments for long-leg destroyers.
(E) Propose that CHURCHILL, CHESTERFIELD, BUXTON, BROADWATER, RICHMOND should join my command and that after T.C.14, I should be responsible for providing escorts for all T.C. and C.T. Convoys.
(C. in C. W.A., 1723A/25 to Admty.)

GLADIOLUS, POLYANTHUS, DIANTHUS. — From C.C.N.F's 1724Z/24 it seems that GLADIOLUS and POLYANTHUS could arrive Charleston about 3/10 and DIANTHUS 23/10. This would appear, from this side of the Atlantic, the most suitable arrangement. Request however that you will arrange direct with C.C.N.F. as necessary to solve the problems referred to in signal quoted.
(D.O.D.(H) 1732A/25 to B.A.R.M.)

PRIMROSE, NASTURTIUM. — B.A.R.M's 1604/24. When they are ready for sea, B.A.R.M. is requested to sail PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM to St. Johns, N.F.
(D.O.D.(H) 1734A/25 to B.A.R.M., C.C.N.F.)

/DESPATCH.....

MOST SECRET

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## FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

DESPATCH. Arrival Balboa 1900Z + 5/25 DESPATCH. (N.C.S.O. Panama, 2013/25.)

T.C.14, ORDUNA. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1514/24. Agree ORCADES is too late for T.C.14. N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to sail her direct to U.K. Most desirable that MONARCH OF BERMUDA should arrive Halifax at earliest possible date for inclusion in T.C.14 even if time will not allow for full embarkation. Latest date that can be accepted for sailing T.C.14 is 10/10 but it should be anticipated as far as possible. ORDUNA should be included in appropriate H.X. convoy and should not carry numbers in excess of those authorised for unescorted sailings.
(D.O.D.(H) 2035A/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

ORION, LOCHMONAR. Gun and mounting for ORION are being loaded in S.S. BRAMHILL at Devonport, for Liverpool where will be transhipped to S.S. LOCHMONAR for onward conveyance to San Francisco. N.C.S.O. Liverpool is requested to arrange for ship to be given safest place in Convoy on leaving U.K.
(D.O.D.(H) 2349A/25 to C's. in C. Plymouth, W.A., etc.)

LIVERPOOL. Your 0850R/18. It must be accepted that LIVERPOOL sails with a reduced complement (details). Request report whether this can be met from ratings from ORION. Should circumstances change, Admty. will initiate action.)
(V.C.N.S. 2353A/25 to B.A.R.M.)

Australia.

P.W.S.S. Torres Strait. Your 0139Z/23, please advise us responsible Officer and standard time of Port.
D. of L.D., 1143A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.G.73.
EMPIRE STREAM.

Convoy H.G. 73 in 046° 03' N. (?0240) 40' W. was attacked at 0548 by one U-Boat. ?EMPIRE BELL (?EMPIRE STREAM) sunk, probably by Browning shot. 23 survivors in BEGONIA. 8 lost. U-Boat escaped without being located. In view of bad visibility and possibility of daylight attack all escorts were ordered to rejoin 0658.
HIGHLANDER will have to leave convoy about dawn/27. Weather report. (HIGHLANDER 1000Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
EMPIRE STREAM, 2922 tons, bound for Huelva to Oban with potash. (D.S. 752, 26/9.)

Submarines Reported.

2100 G.M.T/24. Bearing at 2100 G.M.T. indicates Italian U-Boat call sign 13 N within 100 miles of 039° 45' N. 014° 45' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0333A/25 to Escorts O.G.74.)

1025. Am over enemy submarine in 60.22 N., 12.18 W. periscope only was sighted.
(A/C B. 1025/25 to 15 Group H.Q.)
Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen position (as 1025/25).
(A/C B. 1035/25 to Aldergrove.)
Aircraft reports periscope sighted at 1025A/25 in 60° 22' N - 12° 18' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1102A/25 to Escorts of S.C.44.)

2234Z/2. My 0045A/25 not to R.A. S.A.D. (N.T. in W.D.) Further bearings from Jamaica 125/3 and Aden 250/2 indicate U-Boat in very approx. position 15° S. 35° W. at 2234Z/24. (D.D.I.C. 1048A/25 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

2135/24 D/F Bearings at 2135/24 indicate German unit probably U-Boat within 150 miles 015° S. 035° W. 75% reliable. (C. in C. S.A., 1235N/25 to S.A. Stn.) See also 1321N/26.

1101 G.M.T. A/C reports U/B 47° 30' N. 09° W. Course E. by S. at 1101/25 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1317A/25 to S/Ms on Patrol Area A.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1506A/25.)

/1408 G.M.T.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - contd.

1408 G.M.T. — At 1408 G.M.T. German submarine bearing 300/2 made sighting report. (F.O.C.N.A. 1537A/25 to Escorts of O.G.74.)

1304A/25. — A/C report large S/M on surface in 045° 58' N. 006° 32' W. at 1304A/25 course 270° 15 knots. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (passed by W/R.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1741A/25 to Admty. etc. 2008A/25 to THORN.)

1942 G.M.T. — D/F bearings at 1942 G.M.T. indicate that convoy is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 2132A/25 to HIGHLANDER, FOWEY, BEGONIA.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. — At 0935/25. A/C A/48 attacked U/B on surface 60.08 N., 13.30 W., 293° Butt of Lewis 250'. Co.340°. Dived when attacked with 3 D/Cs. (D.S. 752 26/9) (No signal in W.D.)

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on Reef K-8-B

ENDING OF

REEL K-7-B

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DATE: 15 - April - 46

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